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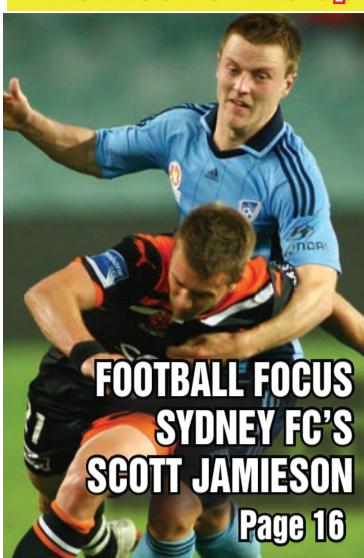
goal! weekly

A-League Round 7 Friday 18th Nov - Sunday 20th Nov 2011

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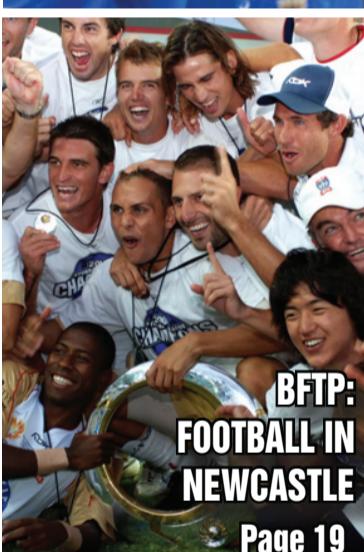
Souvenir Poster Inside
ARCHIE THOMPSON



FOOTBALL FOCUS
SYDNEY FC'S
SCOTT JAMIESON
Page 16



V-LEAGUE ACTION
ROUND THREE
Page 22



BFTP:
FOOTBALL IN
NEWCASTLE
Page 19



HAL ROUND 6
REWIND
Page 4

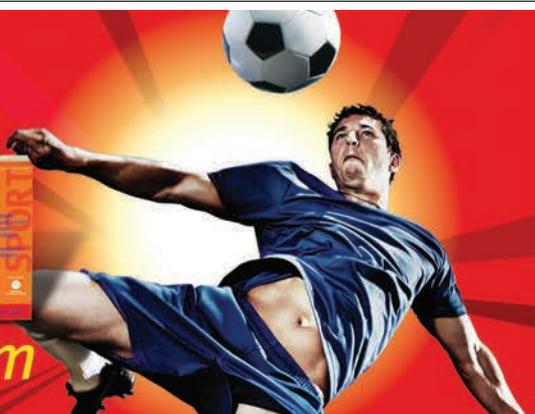
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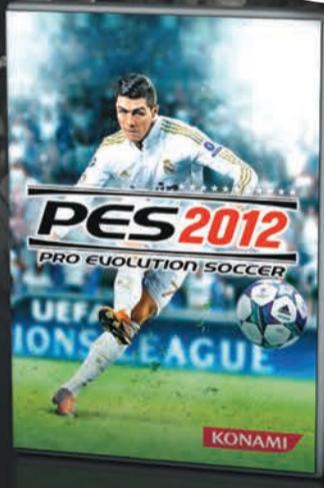
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Holman secures World Cup passage

By Gordon Bennett

Holger Osieck pointed to Australia's away record instead of their unconvincing performance in Tuesday's 1-0 win over Thailand.

The Socceroos needed a 78th-minute Brett Holman goal after they struggled to hold on to the ball and relied on some poor Thai finishing to stay level until the AZ Alkmaar man's winner.

However, Osieck wanted to talk about the positives following the win which sealed their progression to the fourth round of 2014 World Cup qualifiers.

"You have to consider we had two road games; to play in Asia, the different countries, like the Middle East and South-East Asia, it is always difficult," Osieck told Fox Sports when asked about his side's unconvincing display.

"It's always an adaptation and it's not going to be easy for anybody. Already for three road games we won two which is a great achievement."

Osieck added that it was a difficult match but said he was pleased for his side who worked hard.

"It was a pretty tough one today. They were so well organised, they made it really difficult for us," he said.

"We didn't move the ball quick enough, particularly in the first half. In the second half we had more attacking aspects. I'm pretty pleased for the boys. Tough win, but a good win."

Socceroos skipper Lucas Neill said the side were rewarded for sticking to their jobs despite being under pressure and in difficult conditions.

"We had to prepare well for this game.

Group D Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Australia	5	4	0	1	9	3	6	12
Saudi Arabia	5	1	3	1	4	3	1	6
Oman	5	1	2	2	1	6	-5	5
Thailand	5	1	1	3	4	6	-2	4

(It was a) good crowd, we knew it was going to be tough. They threw everything at us," Neill said.

"Good strength was shown by the guys today. It was never going to be an easy game. We just persevered, stuck to it, showed patience and got rewarded."

Goalscorer Holman was simply happy to get the points and seal Australia's passage into the next round.

"We got the job done, so that's the most important thing. We'll look to our opponents in the next group and go from there," he said.

"These sorts of games it depends on the three points. We did that tonight, not convincingly but we didn't give much away either, so that was the most important thing."

However, Holman admitted improvements could be made.

"We just have to work on our play when we have the ball. That's the main factor. We're defending well. The most important thing is what we do with the ball," he said.

With one round still to be played any of Thailand, Saudi Arabia and Oman could all still feature, after the latter two played out a goalless draw in Riyadh.

In other AFC World Cup qualifiers Lebanon shocked South Korea 2-1 on



Brett Holman came the rescue with a timely goal to secure top spot in Group D and a keep the Socceroo's World Cup aspirations on track for Brazil 2014.

Photo: GEOFF JONES

Tuesday to throw open Group B with one match remaining.

An Ali Al Saadi goal and Abbas Ali Atwi's penalty, either side of Ja-Cheol Koo's spot kick for South Korea, sealed a famous victory for Lebanon, prompting tears of joy at the Camille Chamoun Sports City Stadium in Beirut.

The win leaves South Korea top of

Group B, level on points with second-placed Lebanon and two points ahead of Kuwait in third.

Japan, who had already secured passage to the final round, went down 1-0 away to 10-man North Korea.

Uzbekistan now appear set to top Group C ahead of Japan following their 3-0 win over Tajikistan.

Iraq defeated Jordan 3-1 in a clash between the top two in Group A, with China eliminated despite their 4-0 win over Singapore.

Iran are also through following their 4-1 win away to Indonesia in Group E. Qatar and Bahrain are second and third respectively.

Golec cops penalty

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has concluded that the Adelaide United's, Antony Golec, was in breach of the National Code of Conduct (Code) by virtue of comments made on Twitter with respect to the match between Melbourne Victory and Brisbane Roar on Saturday 5 November. The FFA has determined that Golec is suspended for a total of three (3) matches, with one of these matches to be served immediately. The remaining two (2) match sanction is to be suspended and shall only be triggered if Golec breaches the Code during the remainder of the Hyundai A-League season, including finals, or fails to undergo appropriate counseling and education by Sunday 11 March 2012.



Amini nominated

TALENTED Central Coast Mariners midfielder Mustafa Amini has been nominated as a finalist in the Sports Performer Awards for 2011 presented by The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald newspapers.

Amini has been recognised in the 'Young Performer of the Year' category along with four other athletes from varying sports, thanks to his performances in the 2010/11 Hyundai A-League, as well as efforts for the Qantas Young Socceroos and Qantas Australian Under 23 teams.

Amini – currently returning to full fitness under the watchful eye of Mariners head coach Graham Arnold – has enjoyed a stellar 12 months.

Having made his Hyundai A-League debut, Amini has since appeared in a Hyundai A-League grand final, FIFA Under 20 World Cup in Colombia, and fulfilled a boyhood dream by inking a deal to play for German heavyweights, BVB Borussia Dortmund.

Loaned back to the Mariners from Dortmund in a win-win deal until the end Central Coast's participation in the group stage of the 2012 Asian Champions League, Amini is now looking to build on his first season in the Hyundai A-League.

"I've been nominated for a few awards

before however it is always nice to be recognised for these types of prizes," Amini said.

"I'd like to wish my peers good luck in the competition, but of course it would be nice for me to win."

The Sports Performer Awards are one of the most prestigious in Australian sport, recognising the very best performers from the previous 12 months. Unlike other major awards, the winner from all categories will be determined by an online public vote, with the highest tallied athlete taking home the prize.

Fans can vote for Mustafa Amini in the Sports Performer Awards up until Wednesday December 7, 2011 by visiting www.performerawards.com.au.



FNSW reduce fees

In response to calls from the Football Community, the Board of Football NSW has announced a number of changes to the capitation fees placed on player registration.

'Cost of football' was one of several concerns raised by membership after Football NSW's Review and subsequent metropolitan and country member forums.

These changes, to be introduced in season 2012, illustrate Football NSW's ongoing commitment to making football a more affordable sport.

In a first for football, a 12 month Accident Support Policy will be introduced where by footballers; registered though My Football Club, who engage in Futsal and Summer Football are covered with no increase to the current cost passed on for the Accident Support Policy in place.

Student rates are to be reinstated, with student players over the age of 18 to be given a 19% discount on the current Football NSW capitation fees.

Junior capitation fees (relevant to foot ballers aged between 6-9) have also been reduced on last season's Football NSW capitation fees.

Moreover, capitation fees relevant to 10-17 year old juniors and seniors

have remained equivalent to last year's figures – with Football NSW absorbing the standard increases associated with cost of living.

All capitation fees include Football Federations Australia's (FFA) MyFootballClub roll out – which enables participants to register for their local club online via the MyFootballClub website (www.myfootballclub.com.au).

Football NSW CEO Eddie Moore was elated by the outcome and was full of praise for the Board in following through with a key commitment made to the Football NSW membership during the review process.

"As part of the review process the cost of football was a primary concern which the Football NSW Board and membership agreed needed to be addressed. "Football gives kids in Optus Small

Sided Football programs right through to the Over 45's the opportunity to interact and train twice a week and play in a safe environment on the weekend throughout the winter months.

"These changes to the Football NSW capitation fee demonstrate our commitment as the governing body of football in NSW to keep the game cost competitive," said Eddie.

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Short Passes

Women end championships with spirited loss

Australia have ended their 2011 AFC U16 Women's Championships, suffering a spirited 1-0 loss to Japan. Finishing fifth in the group, the Westfield National U17 Women have not qualified for the 2012 FIFA U17 Womens World Cup. Japan, DPR Korea and China P.R have all progressed to next year's tournament, following China's 0-0 draw against Korea Republic and DPR Korea's 8-0 hammering of Thailand.

GLORY SIGN INJURY COVER

Former Australian U-20 captain Trent McClenahan has signed an 8 week contract with Perth Glory as an injury replacement player for Scott Neville.

McClenanah, 26 years old, a right full-back played in all three games for the Olyroos at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

"We're glad to have him on board," Perth Glory coach Ian Ferguson said.

"He's a quality player who has captained his country at youth level."

Signed by West Ham at the age of 16, McClenahan spent 9 years in the United Kingdom with stints at Milton Keynes Dons, Hereford United, Hamilton Academical and Scunthorpe United.

VAN DIJK PROGNOSIS BETTER THAN EXPECTED

Adelaide United FC will be without the services of striker Sergio van Dijk for the Reds' trip across the Tasman to face the Wellington Phoenix on Saturday due to a calf injury.

However, scans revealed a better outcome than initially expected, with the reigning Hyundai A-League Golden Boot winner suffering a minor calf tear, meaning he could be back within two weeks.

Rixon signs for South Melbourne South Melbourne FC is delighted to announce the signing of Trent Rixon from Northcote City FC. The big striker has decided to link up with former coach Peter Tsolakis at Lakeside Stadium for the 2012 Victorian Premier League season.

MIRON FINED \$5000

Gold Coast United Head Coach, Miron Bleiberg has been fined \$5000 a result of post match comments made at the conclusion of the Hyundai A-League 2011/12 Week 5 match between Sydney FC and Gold Coast United. He will also serve a one match suspension. This one (1) match sanction is suspended and shall only be triggered in the event that the Coach is found to have committed a further breach of the Code prior to the end of the Hyundai A-League season, including finals.

SALES • RENTAL

SCOREBOARD

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Roar	6	4	2	0	16	4	12	14
2 Sydney FC	6	3	2	1	7	6	1	11
3 Perth Glory FC	6	3	0	3	5	6	-1	9
4 Newcastle Jets FC	6	3	0	3	7	10	-3	9
5 Central Coast Mariners	6	2	2	2	5	5	0	8
6 Melbourne Victory FC	6	1	4	1	4	4	0	7
7 Adelaide United FC	6	2	1	3	6	12	-6	7
8 Melbourne Heart FC	6	1	3	2	8	7	1	6
9 Wellington Phoenix FC	6	1	2	3	6	7	-1	5
10 Gold Coast United FC	6	1	2	3	8	11	-3	5

THIS WEEK

Week 7
 Fri 18 Nov 2011 Fixture Gold Coast United v Melbourne Heart
 Sat 19 Nov 2011 Wellington Phoenix v Adelaide United
 Sat 19 Nov 2011 Newcastle Jets v Brisbane Roar
 Sat 19 Nov 2011 Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners
 Sun 20 Nov 2011 Melbourne Victory v Perth Glory

Venue Skilled Park Local 7:00pm AEDT 8:00pm
 Eden Park, Auckland 5:00pm 3:00pm
 Ausgrid Stadium 5:30pm 5:30pm
 Sydney Football Stadium 7:45pm 7:45pm
 Etihad Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm

NEXT WEEK

Week 8
 Fri 25 Nov 2011 Fixture Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets
 Sat 26 Nov 2011 Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Heart
 Sat 26 Nov 2011 Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory
 Sun 27 Nov 2011 Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC
 Sun 27 Nov 2011 Melbourne Victory v Gold Coast United

Venue Hindmarsh Stadium Local 7:30pm AEDT 8:00pm
 Bluetongue Stadium 5:30pm 5:30pm
 Suncorp Stadium 6:45pm 7:45pm
 Westpac Stadium 4:30pm 2:30pm
 AAMI Park 5:00pm 5:00pm

ROUND 06 RESULTS

Adelaide United	2	Perth Glory	0
(Zenon Caravella 57, Iain Ramsay 69)		Sydney FC	1
		(Mark Bridge 45')	
Gold Coast United	1	Brisbane Roar	1
(James Brown 67')		(Besart Berisha 11')	
Melbourne Heart	3	Wellington Phoenix	1
(Fred 66', Mate Dugandzic 73', Aziz Behich 85')		(Tim Brown 37')	
Newcastle Jets	0		
Central Coast Mariners	0	7 - Besart Berisha (Roar)	
Melbourne Victory	0	3 - James Brown (Gold Coast)	
		Shane Smeltz (Glory),	
		Jeremy Brockie (Jets) , Nick	
		Carle (SFC) , Henrique (Roar),	
		Archie Thompson (Victory),	
		Mate Dugandzic (Heart)	

TOP GOAL SCORERS



Roar's Besart Berisha continues to flourish in front of goal and leads the scoring charts.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 6

Compiled by Steven Talevski



GK: Eugene Galekovic – The Adelaide United goalkeeper was at his best despite conceding an unlucky deflected goal. Galekovic made a string of fantastic saves and just piped Sydney FC's Liam Reddy for this week's goalkeeper position.

RB: Manny Muscat – The Maltese international played a pivotal role in the Phoenix defence and denied Thomas Broich a winner after clearing the ball off the line.

CB: Rodrigo Vargas – Melbourne Victory were able to keep the Mariners goalless in front their home crowd as Vargas cleared the ball off the line sparing young goalkeeper Lawrence Thomas some embarrassment after a mistake.

CB: Nigel Boogaard – The central defender returned from an ankle injury to play 88 minutes in a solid performance for Adelaide United in defence.

LB: Aziz Behich – Behich makes the team of the week for the second week in a row as he had another impressive performance which was capped off with one of the best goals of the weekend.

CDM: Fred – Melbourne Hearts Captain lead by example as he dictated the Hearts midfield and

was able to score the opener before coming off with a slight injury in the 82nd minute.

CDM: Tim Brown – The Kiwi international played a pivotal role in shielding the Phoenix back four while also sneaking into the penalty area to score Wellington's equaliser against top of the table Brisbane Roar.

RW: Mate Dugandzic – The young winger makes his third appearance in Goal! Weekly's team of the week after another impressive performance which was capped off with a goal in the Hearts first win of the season.

AM: Nick Carle – Nick Carle makes the team of the week for the second week in a row as he continues to be a nightmare for opposition teams with a great assist for Mark Bridge's winner.

LW: Iain Ramsey – The youngster had a man of the match performance against the Gold Coast where he was able to score the winning goal.

ST: Besart Berisha – The Albanian international opened the scoring at Suncorp Stadium and provided golden chances to team mates Thomas Broich and Kofi Danning who failed to put the ball into the back of the net.

Star Man

Aziz Behic
Melb Heart



The twenty year old defender scored his first A-League goal on the weekend as he had a man of the match performance in the Hearts first win of the season. Behich has made the left back position at the Heart his own with scintillating runs down the wing and effective defensive work. The youngster will surely be missed by the Heart as he joins the Olyroos squad for the next two weeks.

Thank God It's GW on a Friday...
Now available at all good newsagents every Friday
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Gold Coast United



1

Adelaide United



2

Match Details

Gold Coast United 1
(Caravella 66' (og))
Adelaide United FC 2
(Caravella 57'; Ramsay 68')
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Crowd: 6,368
Referee: Chris Beath

Adelaide United line-up: 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk), 3.Nigel Boogaard (5.Daniel Mullen 89'), 4.Jon McKain (c), 6.Cassio, 7.Zenon Caravella, 9.Sergio Van Dijk (23.Andy Slory 36'), 10.Dario Vidasic, 11.Bruce Djite (16. Spase Dilevski 78'), 14.Cameron Watson, 17.Ian Ramsay, 21.Francisco Usucar

Substitutes not used: 39.Nick Munro (gk)
Yellow Cards: Cassio 5', McKain 50', Djite 56'
Red Cards: Nil

Gold Coast United line-up: 1.Glen Moss (gk), 3.Michael Thwaite (c), 5.Kristian Rees, 6.Paul Beekmans, 8.Robson (16.Maceo Rigters 58'), 12.Dylan Macallister (29.Mitch Bevan 71'), 14.Ben Halloran, 15.Adam Traore, 18.James Brown, 22.Peter Jungschlager, 23.Dylan McGowan (4.Zac Anderson 87')

Substitutes not used: 20.Jerrad Tyson (gk)
Yellow Cards: Halloran 17', Traore 22'
Red Cards: Nil

By Nat Adamopoulos

Adelaide United finally gave their loyal fans something to cheer about with the much improved but hardfought 2-1 defeat of Gold Coast United in the 'home away from home' match on Remembrance Day.

The Reds experiment to take up the offer to host the game that was switched from the Queenslanders to play at Hindmarsh Stadium proved fruitful, despite attracting the club's lowest crowd on record a mere 6,368. It was Adelaide's lowest-ever attendance since the September Sunday afternoon in 2005 season when 7013 turned up to watch the Reds and Central Coast Mariners play out a 1-all draw.

With the Thomas Dale medal up for grabs awarded to the player who shows the most outstanding sportsmanship in light of Remembrance Day and the completion of the pre-game ceremony, the echoes of stirring Last Post still in the air, Hindmarsh fans were ready to witness a battle between both sides hungry for points. It was the young guns Zenon Caravella and Ian Ramsay that stood up and fought the battle to come out on top, both finding the net in the second half and giving some hope to the troubled side.

What was promising was the long awaited and successful return to the side of Adelaide United's defender Nigel Boogaard, recovering after battling a persistent ankle injury since arriving at Hindmarsh in early 2010. The courageous battler lasted almost the full 90 minutes in his debut match for the season, giving his all in an inspirational performance filled with dogged guts and determination, highlighting what the commemorative day was all about. The killer V's featured for the Reds early in the match, Sergio Van Dijk and Dario Vidasic taking turns in the attack on the visiting Gold Coast side and keeping glove man Glen Moss working hard to prevent the duo from scoring. But

it was an entertaining Ramsay that kept the crowd wanting more as he continued to put in for his side, showing the stylish skills he had.

Gold Coast's youngster and Adelaide born Dylan McGowan on loan from Scottish outfit East Fife was brilliant, tagging the Reds playmakers with a very strong and fast defending style. A major setback for Rini Coolen came in the 36th minute when Van Dijk succumbed to a calf injury and was taken from the field, Andy Slory taking his place. By the end of the first half the sloppy defending of Gold Coast had ex Adelaide City defender Kristian Rees going ballistic, calling for a tightening up as the visitors were leaving wide open spaces for the Reds to get into and Adelaide's chances were gaining momentum.

But after the break the game opened up with the Gold Coast keeper on call for his side in the first ten minutes of the second stanza, truly earning his keep. First it was the pocket rocket Cassio hurling in a shot in the 48th minute that was just wide of the net, backing it up moments later with another that had Moss fingertipping it over the woodwork. In the 51st minute a corner for Adelaide had Boogaard rising up but failing to get a header onto the incoming ball.

Great work between Cassio and Ramsay was causing headaches for Moss, the play between the two Reds playmakers eventually beating the keeper in the 58th minute with a ball that came across the face of goal, Vidasic sliding in but unable to connect. As Moss forced the ball out it landed unwittingly to the slick and unmarked Caravella who fired it into the open goal for the Reds first.

Five minutes later it was Ramsay in it again, having the opportunity to score the second for his side, but this time Moss came back to life, pulling off a good save to deny him the chance. Down the other end Reds lifesaver Eugene Galekovic was called in for action, as Dylan McAllis-

ter tried to find the back of the net, but unsuccessful in getting past the great man.

Shortly after as good as Galekovic is, the equalizer came as a menacing James Brown fired, the shot deflecting off Caravella and into the net, putting the game at even levels once more.

But a quick reply by the exciting display put on by Ramsay saw the Reds hit the lead once more in the 68th minute, the left footer finding his other foot slotting the shot into the far corner of the net past Moss.

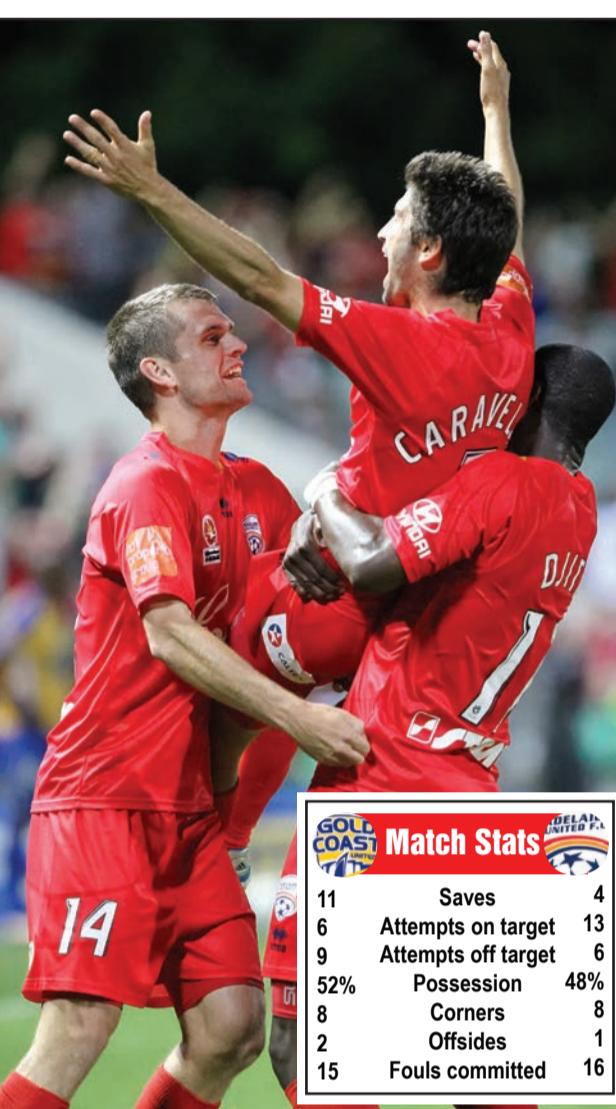
The Gold Coast battled on not laying down their arms, Ben Halloran unlucky not to score just minutes later as his shot forced the Reds keeper to glove it away, dangerously parrying it into the post in what was a very close call. With ten minutes to go James Brown struck again, this time unluckily spraying his shot wide of the post.

As the game drew to a close Galekovic yet again saved the day for the Reds, his double parry in the 86th minute allowing the Reds to keep their lead. As referee Chris Beath blew the whistle for the last time it was a very much relieved Coolen thanking his players for the win and applauding the wonderful efforts of Ramsay as he was awarded the Thomas Dale medal for the match by Mr and Mrs Dale.

"I'm very happy with the three points, that's what we needed. I was especially happy with the boys with how hard they've worked in the past weeks and I think it was a deserved win," Head Coach Rini Coolen said of the performance.

"Of course we prefer still to play better, but it's a step in the right direction, working so hard as a team, getting the points that we needed and that's what we need to build up our confidence."

The Reds will now prepare to head across to challenge the close knit unit of Wellington Phoenix at Auckland's Eden Park next Saturday without key players including Van Dijk which will be yet another test for the Adelaide side.



Match Stats	
11	Saves 4
6	Attempts on target 13
9	Attempts off target 6
52%	Possession 48%
8	Corners 8
2	Offsides 1
15	Fouls committed 16

Zenon Caravella scores against his old club and shares the joy with Cameron Watson and Bruce Djite.

Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Adelaide United's Ian Ramsey evades Paul Beekmans to curl a wonderful effort past a despairing Glen Moss (out of picture), in the Gold Coast goal. Inset: And celebrates to boot! Photo: ADAM BUTLER

James Brown's shot takes a wicked deflection and eludes Eugene Galekovic. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Rememberance Day is observed prior to the match on November 11th. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

CC Mariners	0
Melbourne Victory	0
MELBOURNE Victory F.C.	0

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 0
Melbourne Victory 0
Venue: Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford
Crowd: 10,521
Referee: Strebe Delovski

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 2. Daniel Mcbrean, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 8. Rostyn Griffiths, 9. Bernie Ibini (22. Mustafa Amini 77'), 11. Oliver Bozanic, 14. Michael McGlinchey, 18. Alex Wilkinson (C), 19. Matt Simon (12. Troy Hearfield 70').

Subs Not Used: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk), 7. John Hutchinson.
Yellow Cards: Bojic 13', Griffiths 62'
Red Cards: None

Melbourne Victory: 20. Lawrence Thomas (Gk), 3. Fabio, 5. Leigh Broxham, 7. Matthew Kemp, 10. Archie Thompson, 11. Marco Rojas (4. Petar Franjic 88'), 12. Rodrigo Vargas, 14. Billy Celeski (17. James Jeggo 75'), 15. Tomislav Podeljak, 18. Daniel Allsopp (9. Jean Carlos Solorzano 82'), 23. Adrian Leijer (C).
Subs Not Used: 28. Zain Zeneli (Gk). Yellow Cards: Thompson 45', Kemp 53'
Red Cards: None

Honours even at Bluetongue

By Ben O'Neill

An unbeaten start at Bluetongue Stadium this campaign has continued for the Central Coast Mariners, despite the frustration of being unable to overcome a resolute Melbourne Victory side.

Both teams had chances to break the deadlock in what was an end-to-end Week 6 Hyundai A-League encounter, but ultimately shared the points in a nil-all draw.

The early evening kick-off time clearly suited the Mariners as they began the match with plenty of energy and a desire to showcase their slick passing game. It was an up-tempo performance from the home side, particularly in the early exchanges in the middle third as they attempted to take the match to the visitors from Melbourne.

It was only a matter of time before a warning shot was fired, and in the 9th minute it came from the boot of Bernie Ibini. Full of confidence after netting goals in successive matches, the talented marksman showed that he possesses not only a clinical finish, but deft footwork as well as he stood up the experienced Billy Celeski before getting a shot away.

At the other end of the park, some familiar foes combined to create the visitor's first half-chance. Archie Thompson who has made a habit of netting goals at the Mariner's fortress, combined with a former yellow and navy stalwart in Tom Podeljak but the chance came to nothing as the attempted shot was pushed wide.

The match was largely played in the midfield for the much of the opening half, as both sides struggled to deliver possession to their strikers. Ultimately it was the men tasked with patrolling the middle third who created the game's most dramatic moment in the 29th minute.

Utilising his speed off the mark, and a classy show of skill Michael McGlinchey was able to create enough space for himself to unleash a fierce drive towards Melbourne's goal. It was a stinging shot that had custodian Lawrence Thomas well-beaten, but defender Rodrigo Vargas was



Victory keeper Lawrence Thomas does well to smother Matt Simon's attempt at goal. Photo: JOHN DEWBERRY

able to throw his body at the ball and clear it off the line. The ball travelled as far as Daniel McBrean who was lurking for just such an opportunity in his 100th competitive game in Australia. McBrean headed the ball back towards the goal where it collided with the crossbar and dropped straight down.

Under enormous pressure referee Strebe Delovski elected not to award a goal, and praise must be given for his decisive stance. Replays were inconclusive, but there was enough evidence to suggest that the ball didn't cross the line. It was one of those calls in football that could have gone either way, and the Mar-

ners can be credited for the way they took the decision on the chin and continued to play football.

After both scoring in successive matches, and in identical score-lines, the partnership between Ibini and Matt Simon is developing nicely. Ibini showed great poise to deliver a well-timed cross to Simon, which won a corner, and highlighting the culture that makes the club successful, Simon acknowledged his younger teammate.

Melbourne's best chance of the match occurred in the shadows of half-time. Matthew Kemp managed to evade his marker, and was in the process of rounding Mathew Ryan but was thwarted by an

outstanding challenge from Alex Wilkinson that ensured that honours would be even at the break.

The Mariners began the second half with the same purpose as the first. Oliver Bozanic was the first to try his luck with a sizzling drive from distance that was well saved by Thomas, who gave a good account of himself in his first Hyundai A-League start to deny the Mariners on several occasions.

Patrick Zwaanswijk turned out another composed performance in defence, but it was his contribution further up the park that almost led to the opening goal for the hosts. The Dutch defender dispossessed

Match Stats	
1	Saves
10	Attempts on target
12	Attempts off target
47%	Possession
5	Corners
3	Offsides
13	Fouls committed

Victory, and quickly fed the ball to Rose who's resulting cross-cum-shot almost sneaked in at the far post in the 56th minute.

The Mariners continued to push forward in the closing minutes in a desperate search for that elusive goal. McBreen and Pedj Bojic were unable to get their headers on target, while Troy Hearnfield went desperately close shortly before fulltime.

The Mariners can take heart from the fact they controlled the match for sustained periods, and despite the result can look forward to taking on Sydney FC next Saturday night.

After the game Mariners Head Coach Graham Arnold said he was pleased with the effort of his players, however bemoaned their inability to take full advantages of the numerous chances they crafted in the final third.

"I felt that any other night it could have been a much better scoreline for us," Arnold said.

"For us to be successful we have to be more ruthless in front of goal, and that is what I just said to the boys".

"We had enough chances to win five games."

Arnold praised his side for restricting a talented Melbourne Victory outfit to only a few half-chances throughout the game.

"I thought overall that it was a good performance. Defensively we restricted them to basically nothing. Football wise, I thought we moved the ball around real well."



Victory's Adrian Leijer stands his ground to contain the ever-present Matt Simon of the Mariners. Photo: JOHN DEWBERRY



Victory's Matthew Kemp and Joshua Rose go toe-to-toe on this occasion. Photo: JOHN DEWBERRY



Sunday November 27
Kick-off 5.00pm
AAMI Park

Melbourne Heart



3

Newcastle Jets



0

Match Details

Melbourne Heart 3
(Fred 66', Mate Dugandzic 73', Aziz Behich 85')

Newcastle Jets 0
Saturday, 12 November 2011
Venue: AAMI Park
Attendance: 5,914
Referee: Kurt Ams

Melbourne Heart: 1. Clint Bolton, 2. Michael Marrone, 3. Brendan Hamill, 5. Fred (13. Jonatan Germano 83'), 6. Matt Thompson, 9. Maycon (19. Eli Babalj, 55'), 10. Wayne Srhoj, 11. Alex Terra (25. Adrian Madaschi, 72'), 16. Aziz Behich, 17. Jason Hoffman, 23. Mate Dugandzic

Unused substitutes: 30. Sebastian Mattei
Yellow cards: Eli Babalj 76', Aziz Behich 86'
Red cards: Nil

Newcastle Jets: 1. Ben Kennedy, 2. Taylor Regan (5. Tiago Calvano 68'), 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 7. Kasey Wehrman (6. Ben Kantarovsky 81'), 8. Jeremy Brockie, 11. Tarek Elrich, 12. Jobe Wheelhouse, 13. Sung-Hwan Byun, 22. Ali Abbas, 23. Ryan Griffiths, 24. Francis Jeffers (14. Labinot Haliti 64').

Unused substitutes: 30. Jack Duncan
Yellow cards: Kasey Wehrman 51', Nikolai Topor-Stanley 77'
Red cards: Nil



Jets keeper Ben Kennedy can only grasp at thin air as Aziz Behic's effort finds the top corner. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Aziz Behic celebrates his goal by taking off on a steeple chase.

Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Heart finally off the mark

By Daniel Quinn

Melbourne Heart has defeated Newcastle Jets at AAMI Park on Saturday evening 3-0 thanks to goals from Fred, Mate Dugandzic and Aziz Behich.

Melbourne Heart made two changes with Maycon, Fred and Jason Hoffman coming into the starting line-up for Jonatan Germano, David Williams and Simon Colosimo. New signing Adrian Madaschi also comes onto the bench. Newcastle Jets made one change with Ali Abbas replacing Ruben Zadkovich who has suffered a hamstring injury.

The hosts had the first chance through Aziz Behich on 2 minutes but his shot just went wide. Newcastle went straight up the other end two minutes later with Francis Jeffers whose weak left footed shot was easily saved by Clint Bolton.

On 8 minutes Hoffman had his first chance when Topor-Stanley's poor pass found Hoffman on the edge of the box but his shot was saved by Jets' keeper Ben Kennedy. Four minutes later Hoffman had another opportunity to open the scoring but his left footed shot again from the edge of the box went wide.

The rest of the first-half was a tad dull affair where either side could break down the opposition defence or put in a good final ball. Heart however did have the last chances on 31 minutes and 40 minutes through Alex Terra and Jason Hoffman but their shots were easily saved by Jets' custodian Ben Kennedy.

It was Hoffman again on 52 minutes who had the first chance of the second stanza but yet again Kennedy was in the way. Three minutes later John van't Schip made the vital substitution when he replaced Maycon with Eli Babalj who would be an important factor later in the half. Mate Dugandzic was next up to test Jets' keeper Kennedy with a brilliant curling effort but Kennedy made a fantastic save to keep it at nil-all.



How good it is! Players mob captain Fred after the Brazilian opened the scoring and set Heart on the way to their first win of the season. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

On 66 minutes Captain Fred opened the scoring after a great move and some good hold up play by Babalj before side-footing it into the top right corner. 3-0 it finished at AAMI Park.

Seven minutes later Mater Dugandzic doubled the lead after Tarek Elrich's attempt to pass back to Ben Kennedy was intercepted by Du-

gandzic and finished easily.

On 85 minutes the game was put beyond the visitors when Aziz Behich beat Ben Kantarovsky before cutting onto his right foot and curling a wonderful finish into the top right corner. 3-0 it finished at AAMI Park.

Melbourne Heart coach John van't Schip was relieved after winning their first game of the season. "I am very relieved like the boys are and I would also like to say thanks to the fans because

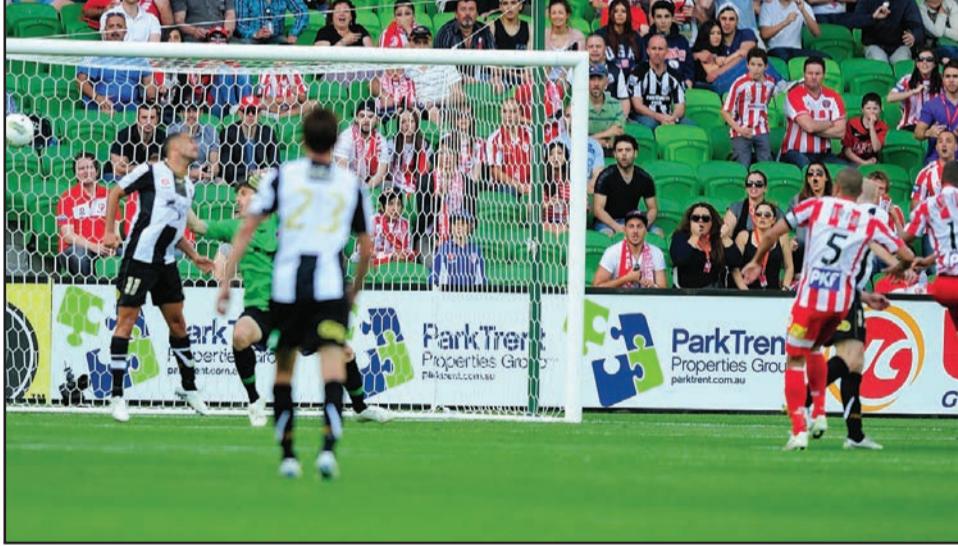
I think the fans stick behind us all this time, having been frustrated at times and it was a good win for everybody."

Newcastle Jets coach voiced his opinion on the game. "In the beginning Heart took the ascendancy then half way through the first-half I thought we

came back into the match and we started to control the game for periods of time and coming into half-time I thought we were well and truly in the game. Then we came out and I thought it was

fairly even then we made a couple of subs then it started to go a little different way so we chased the game at the end, we gifted them one which made it 2-0 which always makes it difficult to come back from. So now we re-group and get ready for next week."

Melbourne Heart next travel to Gold Coast on Friday night while Newcastle face front runners Brisbane Roar at AUSgrid Stadium.



Fred executes from close range in a crowded penalty area. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Ben Kennedy comes off his line to punch clear the danger.

Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Perth Glory



0

Sydney FC



1

Match Details

Perth Glory 0
 Sydney FC 1 (Mark Bridge 44)
 nib Stadium
 Crowd: 9046
 Referee: Gerard Parsons

Perth Glory: 1. Danny Vukovic, 2. Josh Mitchell, 3. Bas van den Brink, 4. Billy Mehmet, 6. Chris Coyne, 7. Jacob Burns, 8. Adam Hughes, 9. Shane Smeltz, 10. Liam Miller, 19. Josh Risdon (13. Travis Dodd '55 (17. Todd Howarth '85), 27 Andrezinho(21. Mile Sterjovski '55).

Sub not used: 30. Lewis Italiano (gk)
 Yellow cards: Nil
 Red cards: Nil

Sydney FC: 1. Liam Reddy, 3. Jamie Coyne, 4. Pascal Bosschaert, 5. Michael Beauchamp, 8. Karol Kisel (12. Shannon Cole '77), 10 Nick Carle, 15. Terry McFlynn (c), 17. Terry Antonis (9 Bruno Cazarine '67), 19. Mark Bridge, 21. Scott Jamieson, 23. Rhyan Grant (2. Sebastian Ryall '82).
 Sub not used: 20. Ivan Necevski.
 Yellow cards: Scott Jamieson 77.
 Red cards: Nil

By Jacob Kagi

Sydney FC had to overcome Perth Glory's second half onslaught to win last Saturday night's match 1-0 and move into second spot on the A-League ladder.

Mark Bridge's goal in first half stoppage time put the Sky Blues ahead after a tight opening period and they held on in a thrilling finish in front of 9046 fans at nib Stadium.

Perth enjoyed a dominant spell in the final 35 minutes after bringing on Travis Dodd and Mile Sterjovski, the marquee player making his first appearance of the season, but hit the crossbar and were denied several times by a fine goalkeeping display from Liam Reddy.

Sydney defensive duo Michael Beauchamp and Pascal Bosschaert also played vital roles in their side's third win from four games, holding off the Glory's period of dominance despite their teammate's inability to maintain the ball in the second half.

Perth remained in third place despite their third-consecutive loss, but they will slump down the ladder unless they can end their poor run of form in back-to-back difficult road games against Melbourne Victory and Brisbane Roar.

And to make matters worse for Ian Ferguson's side, Dodd limped off in the final minutes of the game with an apparent hamstring injury.

Ferguson made two changes to the side which lost 2-0 to Newcastle the previous week, with Todd Howarth and Dodd dropped to the bench and Josh Mitchell and Andrezinho promoted to the starting 11.

Sydney resisted the temptation to



How the west was won: Sydney FC players enjoy the spoils of Mark Bridge's winner just before the half-time break. Photo: EDUARDO MORGAN

bring Bruno Cazarine back into their starting line-up, with Terry Antonis and Rhyan Grant replacing Brett Emerton, who was absent due to Socceroos duty, and Hirofumi Moriyasu. Vitezslav Lavitka's team sat back early in the game, with the Glory enjoying most of the possession, but it took the hosts until the 35th minute to create a good chance.

Billy Mehmet did well to set up Liam Miller on the edge of the area before he tried to work his way past a couple of defenders and shot weakly from an excellent position, allowing Reddy to make a routine save.

The Blues became more involved in the game as the half went on and took advantage when Miller lost possession in a dangerous position. When Bridge won the ball he delivered a fantastic long ball to Nick Carle, who then fired a great cross which allowed the striker to tap in from close range.

Perth needed to change the game after half-time and Ferguson brought on Dodd and Sterjovski - changing from their usual 4-4-2 formation to a more attacking 3-5-2 - which dramatically altered the flow of the match.

Dodd played on the left flank and exposed Sydney right-back Jamie

Coyne, who was booed by the fans of his old team, on several occasions while Sterjovski played in several dangerous crosses from the other wing.

In a 10 minute period, Chris Coyne had a close-range header go narrowly over, Bas van den Brink had his effort brilliantly saved and Dodd and Shane Smeltz both fired wide from good positions.

Miller then had a fierce shot saved in the 71st minute, but the closest Perth came was when Adam Hughes unleashed a cannon from 25 yards out, only for it to smash into the crossbar with Reddy beaten.

Glory 'keeper Danny Vukovic then came up for a corner in injury time, but his header was tipped over by Reddy and Sydney held on.

Match Stats	
0	Saves
8	Attempts on target
9	Attempts off target
53%	Possession
9	Corners
0	Offsides
15	Fouls committed
7	
1	
2	
47%	
1	
0	
21	



Perth Glory's Mile Sterjovski makes a stretch to keep the ball away from an oncoming Scott Jamieson of Sydney FC. Photo: EDUARDO MORGAN



The in-form Nick Carle closes down Glory's Josh Mitchell. Photo: EDUARDO MORGAN

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Brisbane Roar



1

By Jarrod Ellis

Brisbane Roar's record unbeaten run continued on Sunday when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Wellington Phoenix at Suncorp Stadium.

Brisbane dominated possession and chances but a lack of cutting edge saw the home side fail to collect the full three points as Wellington rebuffed the Roar's advances with a disciplined, defensive gameplan.

The Phoenix entered the match having lost their previous three matches and missing several key players due to injury. The visitors' injury problems then worsened mere moments before kick-off when Danny Sanchez was forced out of the starting line-up with a hip flexor injury he suffered in the warm-up.

After a disappointing result against Melbourne Victory the previous week Brisbane had been vocal in declaring their intent to not suffer a similar disappointment this time around. That determination was on show early on as Henrique tested Phoenix keeper Tony Warner in only the third minute after exchanging passes with Thomas Broich on the left of the Phoenix penalty area.

Brisbane was given an early scare of their own when Manny Muscat almost broke through the defence but an alert Michael Theoklitos was able to react in time and clear the ball before Muscat was able to take possession.

Besart Berisha then gave Brisbane the lead in the 12th minute, taking advantage of some lax marking to head home from a Thomas Broich free-kick after the German had received a questionable free-kick on the edge of the area.

Berisha was denied a second only two minutes later after the linesman flagged the striker for offside before he finished a well placed through ball from Matthew Jurman.

Wellington had been on the back foot since the start of the match but were beginning to work their way into the game as time wore on. Theoklitos was called into action in the 27th minute, forced to collect a dangerous cross from Daniel after Franjic failed to collect or put the ball out deep in Brisbane's half.

Brisbane were then incredibly unlucky not to have recorded a second in the 31st minute, Nakajima-Farran hitting the woodwork after Warner saved well from a Henrique shot inside the box that was setup by a magnificent surging run by Thomas Broich.



Gold Coast Line Up

- 1.Glen Moss [gk]
- 2.Josh Brillante
- 3.Michael Thwaite (c)
- 4.Zac Anderson
- 5.Kristian Rees
- 6.Paul Beekmans
- 7.Golgol Mebrahtu
- 8.Robson
- 10.Tahj Minniecon
- 12.Dylan Macallister
- 14.Ben Halloran
- 15.Adama Traore
- 16.Maceo Rigters
- 20.Jerrad Tyson [gk]
- 21.Daniel Severino
- 22.Peter Jungschlager
- 29.Mitch Bevan.
- *two to be omitted*

In: 2.Josh Brillante (promoted),
7.Golgol Mebrahtu (promoted),
10.Tahj Minniecon (promoted),
21.Daniel Severino (promoted).

Out: 18.James Brown, 23.Dylan McGowan (both Olyroos duty).

Unavailable: 9.Joel Porter (calf – 4 weeks), 13.Ante Rozic (knee – 3 weeks), 19.Chris Broadfoot (ankle injury – 6 weeks).



Phoenix Line Up

1. Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
4. Brent Griffiths
5. Tim Brown
6. Leo Bertos
7. Paul Ifill
8. Paul Ifill
9. Chris Greenacre
11. Daniel
12. Nicky Ward
13. Niko Tsattalios
15. Cameron Lindsay
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
20. Tony Warner (GK)
22. Andrew Durante (C)
24. Alex Smith
- *two to be omitted*

In: Paul Ifill (returns from injury), Vince Lia (returns from injury)

Out: Dani Sanchez (groin injury)
Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite), Mirjan Pavlovic (broken arm - 2-3 weeks), Jimmy Downey (knee injury - 4 to 6 weeks), Dani Sanchez (groin injury - 2 to 4 weeks).

Wellington's woes this term have come

Gold Coast United v Melbourne Heart

Fri 18 Nov Skilled Park 8:00pm

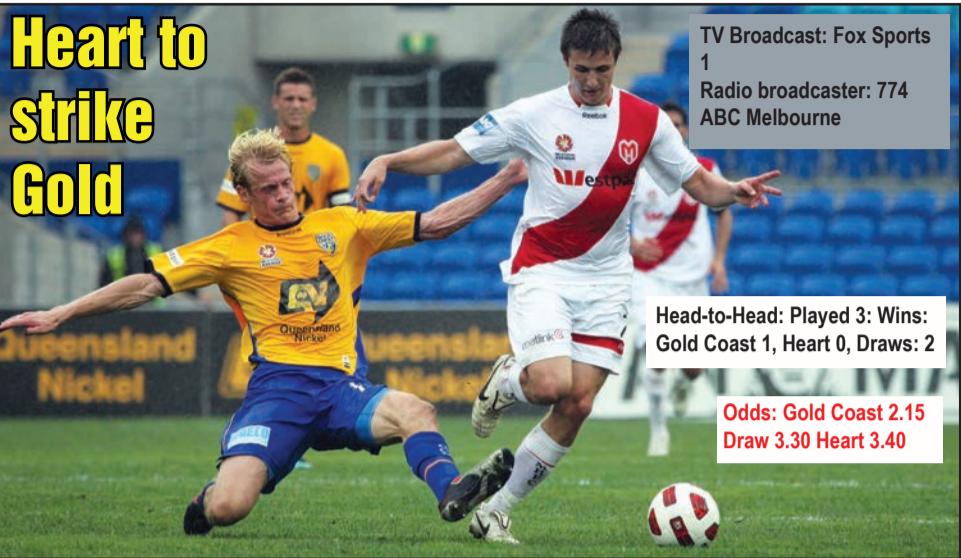
By John Clark

Two of the leagues most promising young sides meet on Friday night in what should be an enthralling clash. Unfortunately for both sides their abundance of youngsters is a disadvantage this weekend with numerous players from both sides called up for Olyroos duty.

For the Heart Mate Dugandzic, Jason Hoffman and Aziz Behich will miss, while Miron Bleiberg's men will be without James Brown and Dylan McGowan. Dugandzic and Behich were crucial to Melbourne's first win of the season last week, with the nippy striker pre-empting a Tarek Elrich back pass before cooling slotting it past Ben Kennedy before Behich put in an early contender for goal of the season turning Ben Kantarowski inside out and spectacularly curling it around Kennedy and into the top corner. It was a much deserved three points for the Heart, who have toiled hard for the last month and have been truly unlucky in a number of their matches.

The Gold Coast came up short again last Friday night despite dominating large periods of the match. It's becoming a worrying trend for Miron Bleiberg who once again saw

Heart to strike Gold



TV Broadcast: Fox Sports 1
Radio broadcaster: 774 ABC Melbourne

Head-to-Head: Played 3: Wins: Gold Coast 1, Heart 0, Draws: 2

Odds: Gold Coast 2.15
Draw 3.30 Heart 3.40

his side hold ascendancy for much of the match only for poor finishing and some brilliant goalkeeping meant his side left Hindmarsh Stadium empty handed. Once again future Socceroo James Brown was the star for the Gold Coast and his presence in midfield will be sorely missed this weekend.

The Heart are yet to register a victory against Gold Coast, with their two meetings at AAMI Park ending in draws and Gold Coast taking all three points met at Skilled Park last season. It must be said however that numerous players from

both sides moved on at the end of the last season.

Gold Coast defender Kristian Rees this week came out in the media stating that he 'is sick of losing' and 'it's not the Gold Coast United way'. They are a team who has demanded success from the start and Miron Bleiberg must be feeling a little uneasy about how things are panning out this season with the side playing some really attractive football, but not putting the points on the board. It's a dilemma that Heart manager John Van't Schip must sympathize with,

having had his own troubles getting the balance between attractive football and winning matches right.

It's very hard to pick a winner here, but just as it was a must win match for the Heart this weekend this is a must win for the Gold Coast. James Brown will be a big loss for the home team, but the loss of Dugandzic and Behich will be harder to cover for the Heart.

Kiss of Death
GCU 2-1 Heart

Heart Line Up

- 1.Clint Bolton [gk]
- 2.Michael Marrone
- 3.Brendan Hamill
- 4.Simon Colosimo
- 5.Fred (c)
- 6.Matt Thompson
- 7.Rutger Worm
- 8.Kristian Sarkies
- 9.Maycon
- 10.Wayne Srhoj
- 13.Jonatan Germano
- 15.David Williams
- 18.Curtis Good
- 19.Eli Babaj
- 25.Adrian Madaschi
- 30.Sebastian Mattei.

In: Rutger Worm (promoted), Kristian Sarkies (promoted), David Williams (promoted), Curtis Good (returns from international duty).

Out: Aziz Behich (international duty), Jason Hoffman (international duty), Mate Dugandzic (international duty), Alex Terra (injury).

Unavailable: Alex Terra - Hamstring (2-3 weeks), Nick Kalmar - Back (4 weeks), Kamal Ibrahim (ankle -3 weeks), Kliment Taseski (foot - long term).

Wellington Phoenix v Adelaide Utd

Sat 19 Nov Eden Park, Auckland 3pm

By Joe Gallagher

Both teams will be flying into unfamiliar territory on Saturday when professional football finally returns to New Zealand's largest city as Wellington Phoenix take on Adelaide United at Auckland's Eden Park.

Phoenix's home away from home will provide a picturesque backdrop for what promises to be a closely fought match. As it stands, both sides sit precariously near the cellar of the A-League ladder, desperate for a win to keep in touch with the top six.

However, the two teams will arrive high on confidence. Adelaide disposed of a stubborn Gold Coast United 2-1 on Friday and Wellington held Brisbane Roar to a well-earned 1-1 draw in Queensland two days later to end a three match losing run.

For Adelaide, trips across the Tasman haven't traditionally served them well. You have to go back to November 2007 for the last time United beat Phoenix in New Zealand. However, Auckland will be a welcome change for the Reds, who have travelled to Christchurch instead in recent seasons.

But a vocal Auckland crowd – starved of football for half a decade – will have their fears of their own of the side from South Australia. They were, after all, the side that handed Wellington a 6-1 thrashing just two years ago, and will trigger painful memories of February this year, crashing out of the competition after losing 1-0 in Adelaide.

Wellington's woes this term have come

Radio broadcaster:
The Radio Network
Wellington 1035AM / 891
ABC Adelaide

Head-to-Head: Played 13:
Wellington 3, Adelaide United 6, Draws: 4

Odds: Phoenix 2.30
Draw 3.25 AUFC 3.10

Points to score in the Garden of Eden

from their impotence in front of goal, having scored only six goals so far. But they will take confidence from the fact that no side has conceded more goals than Adelaide – a statistic in no small way helped by the 7-1 thrashing dealt out to United by Brisbane a fortnight ago.

Another of Wellington's ongoing concerns this season has been their injuries, suspensions and lack of squad depth. And as another week has passed without an additional signature to the roster, Phoenix coach Ricki Herbert will be sweating on the fitness of Spaniard Dani Sanchez, in light of the (only slight) possibility of a return to action for Vince

Lia and star attacker Paul Ifill from injuries of their own.

But Adelaide have a similarly threadbare squad to that of the Phoenix. They will certainly be without a key striker after Sergio van Dijk was ruled out midweek and coach Rini Coolen will be sweating on the fitness of four key players – most notably defender Cassio. But with Dario Vidasic leading the line, United will be a threat going forward that Phoenix keeper Tony Warner will desperately want to keep at bay. Defender Jon McKain returns to New Zealand for the first time, to play against the club he called home just two years ago.

These are two sides who are rebuilding after early season setbacks. For the Phoenix, the perfect tonic for three straight losses (two at home) was their gutsy draw in Brisbane. For Adelaide, a win against Gold Coast saw them – partially – remove the pain of their humiliation at the hands of the Roar.

A win for either on Saturday will see them move further away from the doom and gloom of both the bottom of the table, and their own respective stuttering starts to the campaigns.

Kiss of Death
Phoenix 2-2 AUFC



Adelaide Utd Line Up

- 1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk)
- 2.Osama MALIK
- 3.Nigel BOOGAARD
- 4.Jon McKAIN (c)
- 6.CASSIO
- 7.Zenon CARAVELLA
- 10.Dario VIDASIC
- 11.Bruce DJITE
- 12.Antony GOLEC
- 13.Ricardo DA SILVA
- 14.Cameron WATSON
- 16.Spase DILEVSKI
- 17.Iain RAMSAY
- 18.Fabian BARBIERO
- 21.Francisco USUCAR
- 39.Nick MUNRO (gk)
- *one to be omitted*

In: Osama Malik (promoted), Antony Golec (promoted), Ricardo Da Silva (promoted), Fabian Barbiero (promoted)

Out: Daniel MULLEN (international duty), Sergio VAN DIJK (calf – 1-2 weeks), Andy SLORY (general soreness – 1 week)

Unavailable: Evgeniy LEVCHENKO (calf – 1 week), Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk) (international duty), Milan SUSAK (calf – 1 week)

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Jets Line Up

1. Ben Kennedy (gk)
 2. Taylor Regan
 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
 5. Tiago Calvano
 6. Ben Kantarovski
 7. Kasey Wehrman
 8. Jeremy Brockie
 10. Ruben Zadkovich
 11. Tarek Elrich
 12. Jobe Wheelhouse (c)
 13. Sung-Hwan Byun
 14. Labinot Haliti
 17. James Virgili
 22. Ali Abbas
 23. Ryan Griffiths
 30. Jack Duncan (gk)
- *three to be omitted*

In: 17. James Virgili, 22. Ali Abbas, 30. Jack Duncan (gk) (promoted)

Out: 19. Matthew Nash (gk) (omitted)

Unavailable: 18. Marko Jesic (international duty)



Sydney FC Line Up

1. Liam Reddy
 3. Jamie Coyne
 4. Pascal Bosschaart
 5. Michael Beauchamp
 6. Hirofumi Moriyasu
 7. Brett Emerton
 8. Karol Kisiel
 9. Bruno Cazarine
 10. Nick Carle
 12. Shannon Cole
 15. Terry McFlynn (c)
 17. Terry Antonis
 18. Juho Makela
 19. Mark Bridge
 20. Ivan Necevski
 21. Scott Jamieson
- *one to be omitted*

In: Brett Emerton (returns from international duty), Hirofumi Moriyasu (promoted), Juho Makela (returns from injury)

Out: Sebastian Ryall (U23 duty), Rhyan Grant (U23 duty), Dini Petros (U23 duty)

Unavailable: Nil

Newcastle Jets v Brisbane Roar

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets face the Brisbane Roar this Saturday afternoon in a pivotal round seven A-league encounter, for more reasons than one.

Brisbane stands on the cusp of equaling an Australian sporting record that has stood for over 70 years. Not since the Eastern Suburbs Rugby League side of the 1930's have a professional Australian sporting side gone 35 matches without defeat.

The one side that the Roar has not beaten in their 34 match unbeaten run are the Jets and the home side will be looking to continue that run against Ange Postecoglou's side.

Newcastle comes into this encounter off a poor last start performance when they were soundly beaten 3-0 by the Melbourne Heart at AAMI Park last Saturday.

This continues the Jets inconsistent start to the season in which they have won all three home games, only to lose all matches on the road.

Results have also started to dry up for the Roar after their devastating 7-1 victory over Adelaide three games ago. Since that night, the Roar has dominated matches against nine-man Melbourne Victory and The Wellington Phoenix but have been missed their chances in front of goal.

One plus for the Jets will be the likely return of midfielder Ruben Zadkovich, who brings the spark and energy that the home side so desperately missed

Odds: Jets 4.30
Draw 3.40 Roar 1.88

Radio broadcaster:
1233 ABC Newcastle



Sat 19 Nov Ausgrid Stadium 5:30pm

Jets stand in the way of record seeking Roar

Head to Head:
Played 19: Brisbane 6,
Newcastle 7, Draws 6.

Kiss of Death
Jets 2-2 Roar

against the Heart last week. He will be given the task of trying to curtail the output of Brisbane midfielder Erik Paartalu.

Paartalu has been in sensational form this season and is the starting point for many of the Roar's forward forays. Many considered him unlucky not to make the last Socceroos squad.

His play in building attacks has given players such as Mitch Nichols and Thomas Broich ample opportunities to unleash their creative flair on the opposition.

One area in which the home side could hurt the Roar is down the flanks.

Brisbane's fullbacks Ivan Franjic and Shane Stefanutto are given free reign by Postecoglou to support Brisbane's attacks.

This leaves space behind them that could be utilised and Newcastle has numerous players capable of this. The in-form Jeremy Brockie and Ryan Griffiths spring to mind. Both players love appearing at Ausgrid Stadium, Griffiths scoring an opening day brace and Brockie having scored 3 goals there this season.

The service and passing of Kasey Wehrman will be crucial in giving these players the service they desire. Much is

made of the hardness and physicality of the midfielder, but it is often forgotten that he has one of the better passing ranges of any player in the competition.

Gary Van Egmond told Fox Sports FC that the Jets will not be 'parking the bus' against the Roar. If this is the case then we are in for an absolute treat. My tip is the Roar will equal history by going 35 games without defeat, but due to Newcastle's formidable record at Ausgrid this season they will have to settle for a draw.

Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners

Sat 19 Nov SFS 7:45pm

By Mike Salter

Two of the competition's inform teams do battle at the Sydney Football Stadium on Saturday evening, with Sydney FC looking to make it four wins out of the last five against the Central Coast Mariners, who were disappointed with their goalless draw against Melbourne Victory last weekend.

The Sky Blues will be full of confidence going into the match. A tough away trip to Perth last weekend was negotiated superbly, thanks in no small part to the goalkeeping heroics of Liam Reddy. Mark Bridge, Sydney's goalscorer against the Glory, is slowly running into form following his early-season suspension; young Terry Antonis, meanwhile, continues to win plaudits from all quarters. Nick Carle, too, has been excelling in recent weeks.

It will be Michael Beauchamp's first encounter with the club that provided the launching-pad for his mercurial European sojourn. Mariners fans will not have forgotten his splendid sign-off per-

formance in the 2005/06 grand final against Sydney, and although Beauchamp is yet to find his best form this season, Graham Arnold will be well aware that the Sydney backline will be a tough nut to crack. Beauchamp's colleague at centre-back, Pascal Bosschaart, has been in commanding form and Reddy has been close to faultless between the sticks recently.

The Mariners will be looking to their wide men to provide much

of the penetration against the 2009/10 champions. Vitezslav Lavicka's charges have experienced trouble with the likes of Michael McGlinchey and Oliver Bozanic in the past, and if the Sky Blues have a distinct weakness this term it is in the wide defensive areas. Young striker Bernie Ibini-Isei has complemented the physical threat of Matt Simon quite well of late, and is a potential game-breaker for Arnold.

Sydney v. Central Coast match-
es are always lively affairs, even if they don't often reach the dramatic highs of the legendary nine-goal thriller at Bluetongue Stadium in late 2007. With both sides comfortably placed in the top five only three points apart, and with Sydney now only three points behind leaders Brisbane, neither side will be short of incentive on Saturday evening.

Mariners seek to stop SFC

Head-to-Head: Played 19: Wins: Sydney FC 8, Central Coast 5, Draws: 6

Odds: SFC 1.94 Draw 3.45
Mariners 4.25

Radio broadcaster:
Coast FM 96.3 Gosford



Mariners Line Up

2. Daniel McBreen
 3. Joshua Rose
 4. Pedj Bojic
 5. Brad Porter
 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
 7. John Hutchinson
 8. Rostyn Griffiths
 9. Bernie Ibini
 10. Adriano Pellegrino
 12. Troy Hearnfield
 14. Michael McGlinchey
 16. Trent Sainsbury
 18. Alex Wilkinson
 19. Matt Simon
 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
 21. Sam Gallagher
 22. Mustafa Amini
- *three to be omitted* *goalkeeper to be included*

In: 5. Brad Porter (Promoted), 10. Adriano Pellegrino (Promoted), 16. Trent Sainsbury (Promoted), 21. Sam Gallagher (Promoted)

Out: 1. Mathew Ryan, 11. Oliver Bozanic (Qantas Australian Under 23 Duty - 2 Weeks)

Unavailable: 1. Mathew Ryan (Qantas Australian Under 23 Duty - 2 Weeks), 11. Oliver Bozanic (Qantas Australian Under 23 Duty - 2 Weeks), 13. Stuart Musialik (Adductor - 1 Week), 15. Brad McDonald (Qantas Australian Under 23 Duty - 2 Weeks), 23. Adam Kwasnik (Ankle - 1 Week)

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Victory Line Up

3. Fabio
4. Petar Franjic
6. Leigh Broxham
7. Matthew Kemp
9. Jean Carlos Solorzano
10. Archie Thompson
11. Marco Rojas
12. Rodrigo Vargas
13. Diogo Ferreira
14. Billy Celeski
15. Tom Podeljak
16. Carlos Hernandez
17. Jimmy Jeggo
18. Danny Allsopp
19. Isaka Cernak
20. Lawrence Thomas (GK)
21. Ante Covic
22. Harry Kewell
23. Adrian Leijer (c)
four to be omitted

In: 21. Ante Covic (returns from suspension), 16. Carlos Hernandez (returns from international duty), 22. Harry Kewell (returns from international duty), 19. Isaka Cernak (promoted)

Out: 30. Zaim Zeneli (GK) (omitted),
Unavailable: 1. Tando Velaphi (stress fracture), 8. Grant BREBNER (calf), 2. Matthew Foschini (suspended - 1 match)

Rewind



Robert Di Fabio

The sixth week of the new A-League campaign served up an array of talking points; with football back in the limelight, following a week encircled by controversy and drama – amid contentious debate regarding refereeing standards, the MRP and incredible off-field rants – which in turn provided entertainment.

Adelaide United got their season back on track in rather unusual circumstances, claiming a hard fought triumph over Gold Coast United in an “away” fixture at Hindmarsh Stadium. Meanwhile, after 11 exasperating matches without a win, Melbourne Heart finally remembered what it was like to taste victory, scoring three second half goals to prevail over Newcastle Jets. Cross-town rival Melbourne Victory continued its frustrating commencement to the season, partaking in another 0-0 stalemate – its third in six games – with Central Coast Mariners. Perth Glory’s optimistic start has withered away, losing its third successive game to an invigorated Sydney FC outfit. While, Brisbane Roar edged itself a step closer towards the history books, drawing 1-1 with Wellington Phoenix, to move its unbeaten run to an extraordinary 34 games – one-match off equalling the Australian sport’s domestic record held by Eastern Suburbs from 1936-37 in the NSWRL.

Following a week full of talking points, let’s recap some of the major issues which confronted round six.

Brisbane Roar on the verge of creating history:

Under the tutelage of mastermind Ange Postecoglou, Brisbane Roar have mesmerised football enthusiasts over the past year, showcasing a style of football never foreseen in the Australian domestic game. The ethos Brisbane has adopted is helping the competition mature from a tactical per-

Melbourne Victory v Perth Glory

By Peter Simcox

In the final game of round 7, the out-of-form Perth Glory head east to take on Melbourne Victory at The Etihad Stadium on Sunday. The form of both sides is the complete opposite, with the Victory unbeaten in their last four games, while the Glory has lost their last three, including the last two road trips.

Mehmet Durakovic’s side are coming off back-to-back draws, a 2-2 draw against leaders Brisbane, and 0-0 draw with Central Coast Mariners last week. They welcome back Carlos Hernandez from international duty and keeper Ante Covic from suspension for the visit of Ian Ferguson’s side. However they will be sweating on the fitness of Harry Kewell, who was injured on Socceroos duty last week, but with Archie Thompson leading the line well and skipper Adrian Leijer marshalling a tight defence they will fancy their chances of taking all three points.

Another player to impress this season has been defender Matthew Kemp and he is wary of the Glory. “They’re still a good side, they’ve made some very good signings and got some very dangerous players so they might be the wounded animal at the moment, looking to bounce back,” he said.

“I think we just need to worry more about ourselves and with the squad we’ve got once we get that chemistry right then I think we should let teams worry about us.”

The Glory, who started the season

Glory, Glory Melbourne Victory

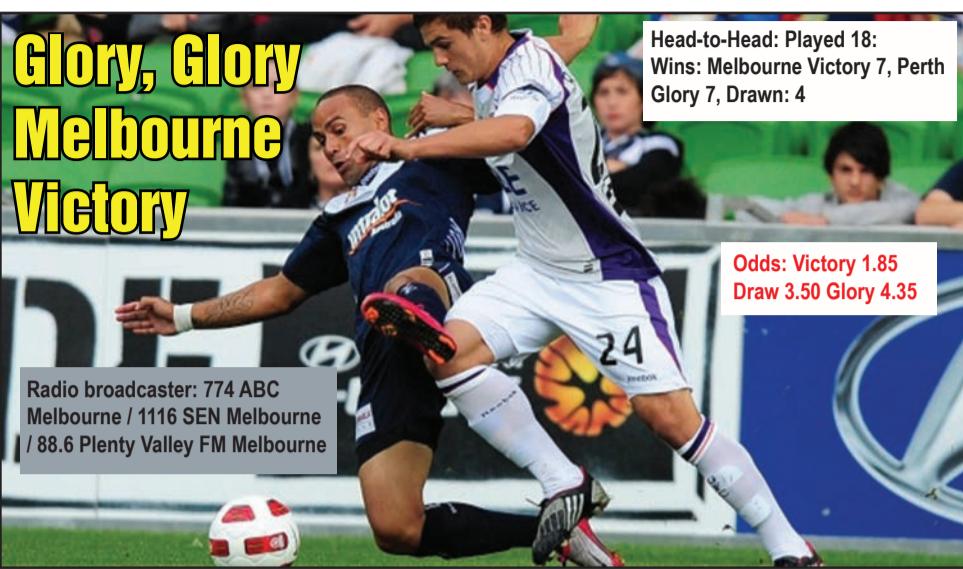
Radio broadcaster: 774 ABC Melbourne / 1116 SEN Melbourne / 88.6 Plenty Valley FM Melbourne

on fire with three straight wins, were beaten 0-1 last week by Sydney FC at nib Stadium, and will be looking to kick start their campaign against Victory. Ferguson has tinkered with the starting line up in recent weeks and has Mile Sterjovski and Tommy Amphlett pushing for a starting role, but he will be without Olyroos defender Scott Neville (knee) and Travis Dodd (hamstring) for Sunday’s clash. The drive from the midfield has been a problem for the side from the West, and with former Celtic player Liam Miller playing in a wide role, this has nullified his impact, and a move back to the centre of the park is a must if they are to leave the

Sun 20 Nov Etihad Stadium 5:00pm

Head-to-Head: Played 18:
Wins: Melbourne Victory 7, Perth Glory 7, Drawn: 4

Odds: Victory 1.85
Draw 3.50 Glory 4.35



Victorian capital with the points.

Former Socceroo Sterjovski is just happy to be back in the squad, and he hopes to push his way back into the starting line up sooner rather than later. “Obviously it’s been frustrating because I’ve been working hard at training and doing well, but credit to the boys, they’ve had a great start to the season so I can’t complain,” he said.

“I just want to get out there and play and enjoy football again, it’s been a while, so hopefully I can just stay injury free and enjoy it. I don’t think that I have anything to prove, the important thing now is for us to turn these three losses around and start getting some

wins on the board.”

The last time the sides met at The Etihad was in Week 19 last season, the Victory running out 2-0 winners. Archie Thompson scored late in the first half before Roddy Vargas added the sealer mid-way through the second half. The Glory will take heart from the fact they did beat The Victory twice last season. This included a rare win on the road in Week 2, with Sterjovski wrapping up the points in the second half. So will it be a happy return for him and the Glory come Sunday afternoon?

Kiss of Death
Victory 3-2 Glory

Glory Line Up

1. Danny Vukovic (Gk)
2. Josh Mitchell
3. Bas Van Den Brink
4. Billy Mehmet
6. Chris Coyne
7. Jacob Burns (C)
8. Adam Hughes
9. Shane Smeltz
10. Liam Miller
14. Steven McGarry
15. Tommy Amphlett
17. Todd Howarth
18. Jesse Makarounas
19. Josh Risdon
21. Mile Sterjovski
22. Adam Taggart
27. Andrezinho
30. Lewis Italiano (Gk)
three to be omitted

In: 14. Steven McGarry, 15. Tommy Amphlett, 18. Jesse Makarounas, 22. Adam Taggart (all promoted)

Out: 13. Travis Dodd (Hamstring - 4-6 weeks)

Unavailable: 5. Steve Pantelidis (Achilles), 11. Victor Sikora (Hip - Long Term Injury List), 12. Scott Neville (Knee), 13. Travis Dodd (Hamstring - 4 Weeks), 16. Evan Berger (Hamstring - 6-8 Weeks), 20. Neil Young (Abdominal Injury)



Heart-starters: The red side of Melbourne finally tasted victory after six outings. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



The future is orange: On the verge of greatness? All will be revealed this weekend. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

spective, in conjunction with the image of the code. Currently, the Roar are on the verge of creating history, only needing to forgo defeat in one more fixture to equal the 35-game unbeaten streak held by the Eastern Suburbs from the NSWRL.

It won’t be an easy assignment for the Queensland outfit, travelling to the Hunter Valley to take on a Newcastle team, who possess a wealth of attacking intent in front of its home supporters. In fact, the Jets are the only side Brisbane has failed to claim victory over, since it began its 34-game unbeaten run – drawing on all three occasions when the teams have met.

Brisbane have exhibited their technical, accompanied with its tactical proficiency during their incredible rein as the A-League front-runners, although it is also their mental strength to stay in the contest when the chips are seemingly down, that in retrospect crafts this team into a force to be reckoned with.

Many within the football community herald Brisbane as the best club side to play in the history of domestic football in Australia. With this in mind, we could very well see this magnificent team create history on Saturday. When we consider the salary cap constraints and

squad size limitations in the A-League, an unbeaten run of this magnitude makes it all the more inspiring.

Gold Coast United selling a home game:

Last Friday night, Gold Coast United played Adelaide United at Hindmarsh Stadium, however in unusual circumstances; the team from Surfers Paradise was fielding the status as the “home” team.

Gold Coast offered to sell one of its home fixtures, in return for financial compensation, accordingly the Reds fit the bill and subsequently hosted the match in the city of churches.

On the pitch, the fiscal investment ultimately paid dividends for the “away” team, after a run of poor results, Adelaide overcame Gold Coast 2-1.

However, a paltry crowd of only 6,368 were at hand to witness Adelaide claim the three points. With Adelaide being classified as the away club, members were not entitled to entry with their customary season tickets. Whilst the match was technically an away game for the Reds, it was the worst turnout for an A-League fixture at Hindmarsh Stadium since the A-League’s induction six years ago.

In future, should Football Federation Australia allow clubs to sell its home games for a generous summands of riches? To begin with, clubs should be attempting to engage as much as possible with its home supporters. In Gold Coast’s case, it is imperative that football is available to its viewership, exporting games away from the region will not help cultivate the support for the embattled club, nor build the image with the community.

Setting aside Gold Coast’s turbulent state, it is evident the trial wasn’t successful off the pitch. Fans didn’t warm to the idea of having to fork out additional disposal income to watch their team play in their backyard. Given Adelaide’s loyal fanbase – consistently circulating around 12,000-13,000 – we can only assume the scheme wouldn’t be a success in the other markets around the nation.

Melbourne Heart finally records a win:

After holding the advantage in four of the opening six matches, Melbourne Heart finally swept aside the nerves to claim its first feat of the season – brushing aside a disappointing Newcastle Jets 3-0 at AAMI Park.

Goal shortage apparent at Melbourne Victory:

A team, who were widely depicted to

have the utmost attacking talent within the A-League, is palpably struggling to hit its mark. Having only scored four goals in six matches – the lowest in the competition – Melbourne Victory’s lack of penetration in the attacking final third is a cause for concern. With a glut of aptitude in the vein of Archie Thompson, Harry Kewell, Jean Carlos Solorzano, Carlos Hernandez, Danny Allsopp and Marco Rojas, it’s difficult to envisage how, a side with a raft of attacking options could lack the poise to harm its opposition.

Victory boss Mehmet Durakovic – in his first A-League season at the helm – hasn’t been able to deploy a coherent football structure thus far, to the dismay of its fervent supporter base. Despite missing a platoon of first-team players in last week’s gloomy 0-0 draw with Central Coast Mariners, Victory possessed a team certainly capable of challenging for the three points, or at very least, appear threatening on the opposition’s goal. However, Victory rarely looked like scoring when venturing forward, being limited to several half chances and hopeful crosses in the box.

While the Mariners defence were resolute and disciplined, Victory struggled for any fluency or camaraderie when venturing forward. Their inability to retain possession, dictate the tempo of the game, nor apply taxing pressure on the Mariners defence were telling factors of a structure, which isn’t coming to fulfilment. The tenuous showing in the attacking half was truly an accurate reflection of its early start to the season. In a surprising twist, Melbourne has the equal best defensive record thus far, having only conceded four goals – level with table-toppers Brisbane Roar.

Whilst championships are habitually built on a robust, organised defensive unit, a disjointed attacking display will not help the cause. Victory portrays a vast amount of talent; it just needs to work collectively as a team. Durakovic has a duty to get this group working in tandem, in line with his adopted football philosophy. If this can be achieved, then the formidable force everyone initially expected will ultimately come into fruition.

Follow Robert on Twitter @RobertDiFabio

Football and poppies

By Roy Hay

In this country we have become quite accustomed to an outpouring of patriotic rhetoric from sports bodies around Anzac Day.

The so-called blockbuster AFL game between Collingwood and Essendon is now touted as being the 'traditional game', even though it is a relatively recent fixture in the sporting calendar.

The RSL, assisted by governments through the Department of Veterans Affairs, has spent a lot of money and effort to promote the celebration of Gallipoli and Anzac, particularly in schools, seeing that winning the hearts and minds of children is the key to survival in an era when the diggers are fewer and fewer.

Once they opposed any attempt to play sport on Anzac Day, now they encourage a sharing of the day between dawn services and marches in the morning and sport in the afternoon. Anzac Day is now so visible that even

one of the best historians of the modern world can be misled.

When David Reynolds, author of One World Divided: A Global History since 1945, was giving a lecture to Deakin University earlier this year, I had to point out to him gently that Anzac Day was not Australia's national day, as he thought.

In the United Kingdom the celebration or remembrance took place on 11th November, Armistice Day, and this year it suddenly developed a sporting dimension.

On the day after the 93rd anniversary of the armistice that brought the First World War to an end, Scotland played Cyprus in a friendly match.

Scotland wore black armbands emblazoned with poppies, having been granted dispensation by FIFA along with the other home countries.

FIFA is normally opposed to any demonstration which could be considered political.

The issue here is particularly divisive

because the Cypriot veterans' association is planning to sue Britain over claims that their nationals were tortured by the British during their struggle for independence.

Many of those soldiers would have been Scots.

The Scottish manager, Craig Levein, was quoted in the London Telegraph as saying, 'I haven't really been paying much attention to it. The politics baffle me.' 'My own grandfather died in the Second World War so from my point of view it's a no-brainer. I think we should be remembering the people that fought for our country.'

The English team, which took on the World Champion Spain this weekend, also wore poppies for the match.

England and Manchester United's new star defender, Phil Jones, was obviously fired up by the idea too.

'On Saturday we are wearing poppies on our armbands to pay respects to those who lost their lives. It is just a massive honour. That 100 per cent



puts my job into perspective. When you think about those who have lost their lives for our country, playing football doesn't come into that category. Hopefully we can get the win on Saturday for them,' he said before the game.

It was fascinating to contrast these sentiments with those of the Spanish coach, Vincent del Bosque, a cultured and well-read man, who is given to telling his players stories from the Tales

of Count Lucanor, a fourteenth-century Spanish prince.

Del Bosque coached the Spanish team which won the World Cup in South Africa last year. It played some of the most exhilarating football seen at the showpiece of the world game.

He feared that there was too much inappropriate patriotism going around and tried to dampen the martial spirits of his players who saw this as a war by other

means.

He said to his players, 'We don't have to defend our city or even our country.' 'It's not as if we're soldiers. What we have to defend is our sport, and in that we cannot fail. The best way to protect it is to play it as well as possible.'

Is that not the spirit we should be trying to inculcate in our young people and sportsmen and women?



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Caption: Stanley Matthews in action against Australia's Joe Marston in 1958.

Photo: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

English author Jon Henderson is writing a new biography of (Sir) Stanley Matthews. He is seeking information about Matthews visits to Australia subsequent to his first appearance in 1958 with the Blackpool team when it toured this country. Matthews came back to Australia as an individual, though I don't think he

played as a guest for any major clubs. His son, Stanley Matthews, junior was a good tennis player and coaching for the young man was part of the bait to lure Matthews senior back in the late 1950s. Matthews left his first wife, Lady Betty Matthews, and for many years he lived in Malta with his partner Mila. From

there he visited South Africa, Canada and Australia.

If anyone has any knowledge or memories of later visits or newspaper reports on his visits to this country by Stanley Matthews you can contact Jon Henderson directly at jon5@talktalk.net.

- Roy Hay

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ARCHIE THOMPSON

Melbourne Victory



PHOTOS/GRAPHS: ANITA MILLS

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FULL NAME: Scott Alexander Jamieson
 BIRTHPLACE: Sydney, Australia
 BIRTH DATE: 13/10/1988
 HEIGHT: 1.78m
 WEIGHT: 72kg
 MARRIED: No
 CAR: Mazda 3
 NICKNAME: Jamo / Jambo
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: Blacktown City, Adelaide United, Bolton Wanderers
 REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Joeys / Socceroos
 INDIVIDUAL HONOURS:
 Young Player of the Year 2008
 TEAM HONOURS:
 Maybe this year!
 CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO:
 David Beckham
 FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Messi
 FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER:
 Travis Dodd
 FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO:
 Mark Viduka
 FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO:
 Tim Cahill
 MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER:
 Soceroos début
 MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN:
 1999 Champions League Final - Man Utd 2-1 at the death against Bayern Munich
 MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED:
 U/15's Blacktown City v APIA Leichhardt
 EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Playing in the local park with my Dad and brother
 FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: When Kevin Muscat knocked John Kosmina over
 BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:
 Losing HAL Grand Final
 WORST INJURY:
 Broken arm
 MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:
 They're all difficult for different reasons
 FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND:
 Hindmarsh Stadium
 SUPERSTITIONS: None
 TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL:
 Pasta, chicken
 WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS:
 Too many to mention!!
 WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Heading
 FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP:
 Manchester Utd
 FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS:
 NBA, Rugby League
 FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON:
 Kevin Durant, Jarryd Hayne
 FAVOURITE FOODS:
 Pancakes
 FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS:
 Al Pacino, Halle Berry
 HOBBIES: PS3
 FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT:
 Patong Beach, Thailand
 FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: My bed
 IDEAL DATE: Rihanna
 FAVOURITE TV SHOWS:
 Keeping up with the Kardashians
 FAVOURITE MUSIC: RnB, Hip Hop
 FAVOURITE FILM: -
 LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT:
 Man Utd, 12 years old
 BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:
 Father
 BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Warm ups
 HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE GAME:
 More former players to become officials
 ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS:
 Listen and learn
 FOOTBALL AMBITION:
 To play to the best of my ability
 WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?
 Rihanna/Chris Brown
 YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL:
 Has to be Sydney FC all the way!

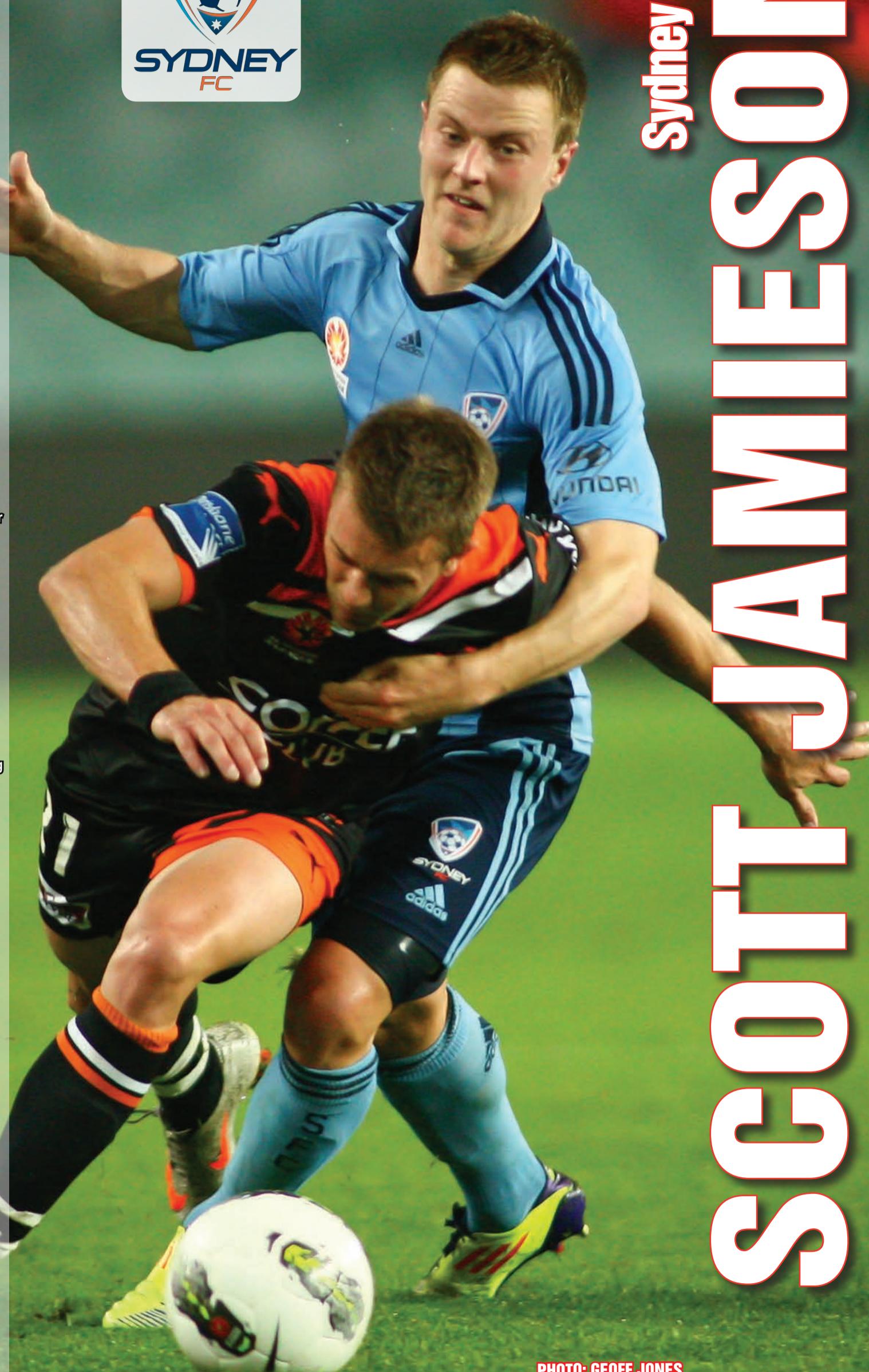


PHOTO: GEOFF JONES

Sydney FC
 SOCCER
 JAMIESON
 STOKE

The World Game on A Local Level

Matilda Kyah Simon knows what it takes

By Walter Pless

Matilda striker Kyah Simon was in Tasmania on Wednesday to speak to students involved in the Indigenous football program at the Jordan River Learning Federation near Hobart.

The 20-year-old is a Football Federation Australia Indigenous Ambassador and scored both goals when the Matildas beat Norway 2-1 at the Women's World Cup in Germany this year.

She also scored the decisive fifth penalty against North Korea as Australia won the Asian Championship, so there is no doubt she has what it takes to play for Australia and is the perfect role model for aspiring footballers.

Simon plays for Sydney FC in the W-League but is currently recovering from an ankle injury.

Simon spoke about the harm that alcohol and drugs can do to athletes and her inspirational talk outlined the sacrifices she had to make to reach the top in football.

She broke her leg when she was 15 years old and some said she was finished, but through mental toughness and physical determination, she made a complete recovery and excelled to the point where she earned Australian selection.

Simon said she enjoyed speaking to young people about her career and the dangers drugs pose and she wished she could do such work more often.

"It's very important to get the important messages from an elite sports person's point of view, namely that you really do



Kyah Simon with some of her many admirers in Bridgewater, Tasmania during the week.

Photo: WALTER PLESS

have to make sacrifices along the way to get to where you are," Simon said.

"Hopefully, I can continue to impact young kids to achieve their goals and to be the best that they can be."

"I travelled up to Darwin a couple of months ago, but this is my first trip down to Tassie. I'm looking to travel to Melbourne next weekend."

"I'm trying to get out to as many schools and communities as I can to get the message out there."

Simon said she enjoyed interacting with young people.

She said she had deferred her studies while pursuing her football ambitions but would like to undertake university studies when she finished playing.

She had not thought too much about life after football, which is understandable for a 20-year-old, but she said she was not really attracted to coaching.

Setting goals was important for everyone and she was working on her goals for the future.

"Coaching is not a career path I want to head down," she said. "I'd do this sort of work [speaking to youngsters about

becoming the best they can be] over coaching any day."

"It's interacting with kids, parents and teachers that I enjoy, but not necessarily being the one out there and calling the shots."

"I like helping out at coaching clinics and to give my little insight on what I know, but not being the head director of a session."

Simon said that there were different types of strikers and there were different qualities that strikers needed to have.

"Your ideal striker is one that has pace,



Kyah's the toast of the town after doing the damage against Norway at this year's World Cup. Photo: ANN ODONG

can strike the ball well and can finish well," she said.

"Good composure on the ball and being able to hold the ball up are vital."

"There are endless qualities that a striker can have - good ball distribution, good technique - and it all kind of falls into place."

"If one striker has all those qualities, you've probably got the best striker in the world in your hands."

"Skill and being able to take defenders on is a defender's nightmare."

Simon can hardly wait to play for Syd-

Quarter final spots up for grabs in 26th All Nations Cup

By Norman Edgar

The action continued at the 26th All Nations Cup with the first game of the day played between Peru and Macedonia. After last week's loss both teams needed to win.

An even first half where both teams scored was followed by a second half where Macedonia stamped their authority on proceedings to go to a 4-1 lead before Peru pulled one back. Scorers for Macedonia were Klime Dimitrevski who got two, Ljupce Koceski and Zarko Tomouski got the others. Michael Van Eijk and Jean Paul Cardone scored for Peru

Italy then played Romania in the following game in Group 1. A fairly even game in the first half until Italy went ahead in the second half after a centre found Dominic D'Angelo in the penalty area who shot into an empty net for the winning goal. Italy had most of the play and the most chances in the game but though Michael Catalano and Jacob Colisimo had opportunities they could not add to the goal tally. Lyall Johann in the Rumanian defence stood out in a team that could not create a clear cut chance.

The Australia versus Turkey game was settled in the first half when a pass through the defence found Sasa Vranevic who shot truly past the goalkeeper. Australia got on top in the second half but could not add to the score to reflect their superiority. Australia goes through to the quarter final but Turkey still has work to do next week in their must win game against Macedonia. The winner advancing to the quarter final.

Last year's winners, Albania, has a bat-

tle on its hands in Group 1 to advance after losing 2-0 to Seychelles after winning their first game last week against Italy. An even first half was followed by a second half where Seychelles roared into life with two goals in the first eighteen minutes of the half both goals coming from Viv Mondon. Seychelles safely played out the half for a deserved win.

With all four teams in Group 1 on three points the winners next week will advance to the quarter finals. Albania play Rumania both losers this week while Italy and Seychelles play in the other game. Italy must win as they have the worst goal difference of minus 2.

The action continued on Sunday with comfortable wins to Chile, Bosnia, Ireland and Scotland

The first game of the day in Group 4 Chile ran out easy winners over India 3-0 through goals to Luke Pilkington, Dejan Rudokovic and Ignacio Rojas. Scotland who beat Mauritius 2-0 in the last game of the day in the other game in Group 4 together with Chile go through to the quarter finals from this group. Scotland's goals came from Sean McIlroy and Luke Sherbon. Mauritius came into this competition with high expectations but as for India have not been able to win either of their games or score a goal.

In Group 2 Ireland played Serbia. There were no goals at half time but Ireland piled on the agony in the second half to eclipse Serbia 7-1 and gain a quarter final berth. Goals to Ireland came from Alan Kearney, Mark, Leech (2), Noel Fox, Sam Sweeney and James O'Sullivan (2). Zoran Vukas replied for Serbia.

Bosnia, the 2011 finalists, beat Portu-



Thrills and spills in the All Nations Cup as Italy's Robert D'Angelo falls over Romanian keeper Denis Martin. Howard Andrews is intent on going after the loose ball. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Italy's Adrian Chilla goes down in a tussle with Lyall Johaan (Romania). Florin Raduceanu (left) is on hand to tidy up.



Ahmet Turer (Turkey) tries hard to dispossess Frank Dimu (Australia). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

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Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



SBS ONE
Sunday November 20th
10:30 AM Football Asia
11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature -
12:00 PM UEFA Champions League Magazine Program

Monday November 21st
04:30 PM FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game

SBS TWO
Monday November 21st
9:30 PM The World Game

Wednesday 23 November
SBS ONE
6.30am (aedi) Live - Napoli v Manchester City

SBS TWO
9.30pm - Manchester United v Benfica
Thursday 24 November
SBS ONE
6.30am (aedi) Live - AC Milan v Barcelona

SETANTA SPORTS

Friday 18-Nov
Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Libertad v LDU Quito 9:10am **LIVE**
Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Universidad de Chile v Arsenal 11:40am **LIVE**

Saturday 19-Nov
Bundesliga Round 13 Kaiserslautern v Leverkusen 9:00am 1st Airing
Scottish Premier League Round 15 Inverness v Celtic 11:25pm **LIVE**

Sunday 20-Nov
Bundesliga Round 13 Bayern Munich v Dortmund 4:25am **LIVE**
Ligue 1 Round 14 Montpellier v Marseille 6:55am **LIVE**
Primera Division Round 15 Teams TBC 11:10am **LIVE**
J-League Round 32 Shimizu S-Pulse v Kashiba Reysol 3:00pm **LIVE**
Eredivisie Round 13 Heracles v Twente 6:40pm 1st Airing

Monday 21-Nov
Bundesliga Round 13 Stuttgart v Augsburg 4:00am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 14 Lyon v Rennes 6:15am 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 15 Teams TBC 8:00am **LIVE**
Ligue 1 Round 14 PSG v Nancy 10:15am 1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 13 De Graafschapp v PSV 1:45pm 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 14 Brest v Sochaux 3:30pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 13 Hamburg v Hoffenheim 5:15pm 1st Airing

Tuesday 22-Nov
Eredivisie Round 13 Excelsior v AZ 2:45am 1st Airing
Blue Square Premier Round 20 Fleetwood v Stockport 12:45pm 1st Airing

Thursday 24-Nov
Copa Sudamericana Semi-Final 1st Leg Teams TBC 8:55am **LIVE**
Copa Sudamericana Semi-Final 1st Leg Teams TBC 11:45am **LIVE**

one

Saturday 19th November
02:30 am Magic Of The FA Cup Newcastle United - Greatest Players

Monday 21st November
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Arsenal V Manchester United 2003/04

Tuesday 22nd November
06:00 am Arsenal TV Norwich V Arsenal

Wednesday 23rd November
02:30 am Liverpool TV Liverpool V Chelsea
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Crystal Palace V Manchester United 1995
06:00 am Serie A Matchday 12
08:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show Matchday 12

Thursday 24th November
02:30 am Bundesliga Matchday 13: Borussia Monch. V Werder Bremen
04:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 13
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Chelsea V Liverpool 1996/97
06:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup West Ham United - Greatest Goals

FOX SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE **LIVE**
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

Week 15		
Sat Nov 19 Norwich v Arsenal	11.38 pm	
Sun Nov 20 Man City v Newcastle	1.53 am	
Sun Nov 20 Everton v Wolves	1.53 am	
Viewers Choice		
Sun Nov 20 Stoke v QPR	1.53 am	
Viewers Choice		
Sun Nov 20 Sunderland v Fulham	1.53 am	
Viewers Choice		
Sun Nov 20 West Brom v Bolton	1.53 am	
Viewers Choice		
Sun Nov 20 Swansea v Man United	4.23 am	
Sun Nov 20 Wigan v Blackburn	Midday	
DELAY		
Mon Nov 21 Chelsea v Liverpool	2.53 am	
Tue Nov 22 Tottenham v Aston Villa	6.53 am	

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE		
Sat Nov 19 Burnley v Leeds	11.41 pm	
Viewers Choice		
Mon Nov 2 Millwall v Bristol City	12.00 am	

A-LEAGUE LIVE		
Fri Nov 18 Gold Coast v Melb Heart	7.30 pm	
Sat Nov 19 Wellington v Adelaide	2.30 pm	
Sat Nov 19 Newcastle v Brisbane	5.00 pm	
Sat Nov 19 Sydney v Central Coast	7.30 pm	
Sun Nov 20 Melbourne v Perth	4.30 pm	



The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time
Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am



Alvaro Rodriguez's

NAME: Solomon Islands
CAPITAL: Honiara
POPULATION: (2009 approx.) 523,000
CONFEDERATION: OFC
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 180th
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Oceania Nations Cup runners-up 2004

WHO ARE YA?

The Solomon Islands are comprised of a cluster of nearly 1000 islands east of Papua New Guinea. The Spanish navigator Álvaro de Mendaña was the first European to sight these islands in 1568, but subsequent attempts at colonisation by the Spanish proved futile. Part of the islands(Sikaiana) was annexed by sovereign Hawaii in the 19th Century before the rest became part of a German protectorate.

In 1893 the British seized control of the islands(which in WWII played a role in the Pacific theater between Allied and Japanese forces), with full sovereignty granted in 1978 although the Solomons remained part of the Commonwealth.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?

Culturally the Solomons is one of two Pacific nations/territories(the other being Tahiti) where football and not one of the rugbys is the dominant code but despite this, the Solomons were far from one of the Oceania region's founding powerhouses. They made their international debut (albeit 'unofficial' as this was before their admission into FIFA) at the 1963 South Pacific Games' football tournament with a 6-3 thrashing of New Hebrides(now Vanuatu) but crashed out with an 18-0 monstering at the hands of French Polynesia(now Tahiti) - the latter still stands as the Solomons' biggest-losing margin. Their maiden Oceania Nations Cup campaign in 1980 ended in ignominy, and they would not enter again until 1996. The big dance of the World Cup was in their sights for the first time in 1992 when they entered the WC qualifiers for USA '94, but failed to get past first base in crashing out to Tahiti and the Eddie Thomson-led Socceroos

(whose best result was a 6-1 belting of the Solomons in Newcastle, in a match which saw Paul Wade, Carl Veart and Mehmet Durakovic among the scorers). The Solomons and the Aussies clashed again in France '98 qualifying, where a 13-0 hiding in which Craig Foster, John Aloisi, Damian Mori and even Mark Bosnich from a penalty got on the scoresheet was enough to get us out of



Eyes on the ball...Henry Fa'aodo in his Perth Glory days

the group stage.

However it wasn't until 2004-05 when the biggest clashes between the two nations took place - as the 2004 Oceania Nations Cup doubled as the Oceania World Cup qualifying section for Germany '06, and the Solomons held the Aussies 2-2 at Hindmarsh Stadium, taking advantage of New Zealand's patchy form.

As a result the Solomons were runners-up to the Socceroos for the Confederations Cup qualifying playoff, and the two would meet yet again the next year prior to facing Uruguay, in which Guus Hiddink's side triumphed.

Despite this significant progress, the Solomons shockingly failed to qualify for the 2008 ONC via the 2007 South Pacific Games, and as a result also missed the boat for South Africa 2010.

BIG CLUBS

The national league is currently known as the Telekom S-League and its leading club is Koloale FC, with 4 league titles in the last 8 years to their name. Their best placing in Oceania Champions League competition is 2nd in the 2009 edition won by New Zealand's Auckland City.

REP YOUR COLORS

Known as the Bonitos(a carnivorous fish related to the tuna), the Solomons' NT typically wears green/white/blue/yellow, as in the national flag, although in the mid-late '90s they wore olive-green tops and shorts with plain white socks.

MATCHWINNERS

Henry Fa'aodo makes a case for being the Solomons' greatest-ever player, if only because he is the first Solomon Islander to play in an official FIFA tournament(the 2010 World Club Championship where he turned out for Papua New Guinea's Hekari United, his current club), although he would be most familiar to us for his stints in both the NSL (for the Melbourne Knights) and the A-League (for the Glory) - in fact he is one of only a couple of foreign players to have played in both.

Fellow striker Commins Menapi is the other candidate, for his long service to the Bonitos and contributing crucial goals against the Socceroos and All Whites along the way, as well as turning out for Sydney United in the NSL's last years.

goal! weekly

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"Josh mate, right now I'm feeling as tall as you!"



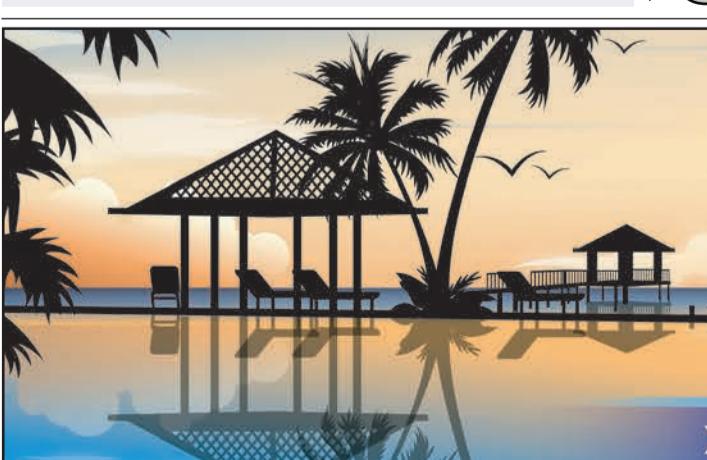
HOT: Brett Holman shows once again what a turnaround the past 2 years have been - derided as recently as 2009 as 'one of the worst to ever don the green&gold' by a multitude of Socceroo fans, his turn at last year's WC in South Africa helped change the public's perception of him, and has just come the goods once again with the solitary goal against Thailand that sees us through to the final stage of Asia's WC qualifiers. A patchy performance yes, but I have faith Holger and the boys will iron out the glitches between now and then. In the meantime, congrats to the boys and to Brett!

NOT: Is it just me or have the number of teams allocated per group for both continental and WC qualifying in Europe over the years increased too much? I think back to the France '98 qualifiers when groups consisted of 5 or 6 sides and that was it. Now you have EIGHT-team groups which, IMO, favour the strong nations. One can say the number of UEFA member nations has increased since then, but by how many? Only Andorra, Montenegro and Kazakhstan have joined the confed since then. The romance of minnows qualifying for major tournaments is fast disappearing in that part of the world, by means of these taxing arrangements on top of what is already a tall order, being competitive in the hub of world football.

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Football in Newcastle

BLAST FROM THE PAST

With Roy Hay

Newcastle United Jets Football Club draws on one of the richest football histories in this country, which stretches back to the very origins of the code in Australia.

Just as Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England is often referred to as a hotbed of football, so Newcastle on the Hunter River in New South Wales has been involved with the game since the very early days. The common element was the popularity of the game among the miners of both areas. James Jupp in his mammoth history of the Australian population says, 'Soccer established a mass following in the Hunter Valley region, where there was a concentration of immigrants from Scottish and North East mining areas, but otherwise was unable to displace rugby and Australian rules' The migration boom of the 1880s had a higher proportion of northern English and Scottish migrants so it is probably significant that this was the decade in which soccer became prominent for the first time as a separate code in Australia, with the foundation of a number of clubs in the major eastern cities and industrial centres and the first interstate matches taking place.

Newcastle was far enough from Sydney to establish its own competitions and administration, and this continues today with the fierce independence of Northern New South Wales from the metropolitan control. Clubs like Wallsend, Cessnock, Adamstown Rosebuds and Lake Macquarie dominated the local competition and often took on and beat more fancied Sydney opposition. Newcastle Austral was a multi-ethnic club founded in 1951 by immigrants in the Gretna migrant camp. After winning the northern first division a couple of times, Austral eventually joined the NSW State first division.

When the National Soccer League was founded in 1977, Newcastle KB United was formed and took part in the second season. Drawing healthy crowds, averaging around 10,000, United finished 11th of 14 teams in

1978. Coached by Alan Vest, the squad that year included Phil Dando, Peter Willis, Col Curran, Bill Summerscales, Roy Drinkwater, Craig Mason, Bill Amey, Mike Galpin, Bob Mountford, Ken Boden, John Sneddon, Joe Senkalski and Peter Tredinnick. Craig Johnston, then with Middlesbrough and Bobby Charlton of Manchester United made guest appearances for the club. In 1979, Newcastle was up to sixth, a level it held the following season. It had its best league result in 1983 finishing fifth in a 16-team competition.

In 1984 when the NSL was split into two conferences, KB United was in financial strife and Adamstown Rosebuds took over the NSL licence changing their name to Newcastle Rosebud United. The league position did not improve but Rosebud won the NSL Cup that year, beating Adelaide City, APIA Leichardt and then Melbourne Croatia in the final. Willie Gallagher coached a squad which included Clint Gosling, Ralph Maier, Neil Owens, Mike Boogaard, Andrew Thompson, John McQuarrie, Joe Senkalski, Bernard Kerby, Steve Allen, Dean Milosevic, Simon Brandt and David Jones.

Despite its best efforts the club was relegated in 1986 and Newcastle did not have an NSL club until 1991 when Newcastle Breakers was formed, drawing on the Austral club as a base. For the next decade the Breakers carried the flag for the Newcastle area playing at a new stadium in the west. The Breakers were drawing crowds of over 5,000 when many of the NSL clubs were below that level in the 1990s, but their numbers dropped away too. Finally the club folded in 2000, despite finishing just outside the play-offs.

The resilience of the Newcastle area was demonstrated once again when local businessman Con Constantine created a new Newcastle United. He drew on what was left of the Breakers and in 2001-02 the new club finished second on the ladder behind the rampant Perth Glory, but bowed out in the finals to Perth and Sydney Olympic. The following year United was fourth,

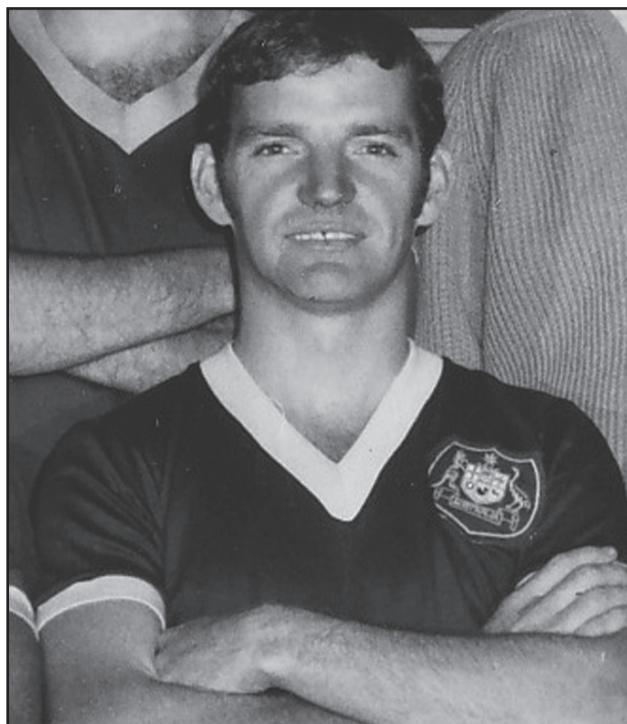
Football's Hotbed



Craig Johnston twice turned out for Newcastle KB United as a guest player in the National Soccer League. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

but finished last in the finals series. In 2003-04 it was the NSL which was terminated and the area was left in limbo once again until the A-League got under way in 2005.

The name of the club was changed to match the image of the new league and so the current Newcastle United Jets inherited the task of representing the city and its region. Richard Money assisted by Gary van Egmond took the club to fourth place in the inaugural season and Nick Theodorakopoulos helped them reach third in 2006-07. Ned Zelic captained the club in its first A-League season. In 2007-08 Gary van Egmond led the team to second place on goal difference to Central Coast Mariners. A Mark Bridge goal was enough to down the Mariners in the Grand Final and so Newcastle had its first Australian league champion. The team which won the title included Ante Covic, Adam Griffiths, Jade North, Stuart Musalik, Andrew Durante, Matt Thompson, Jason Hoffman, Joel Griffiths, Tarek Elrich, Adam D'Apuzzo, Mark Bridge, James Holland, Jin-Hyung Song and Denni Rocha dos Santos.



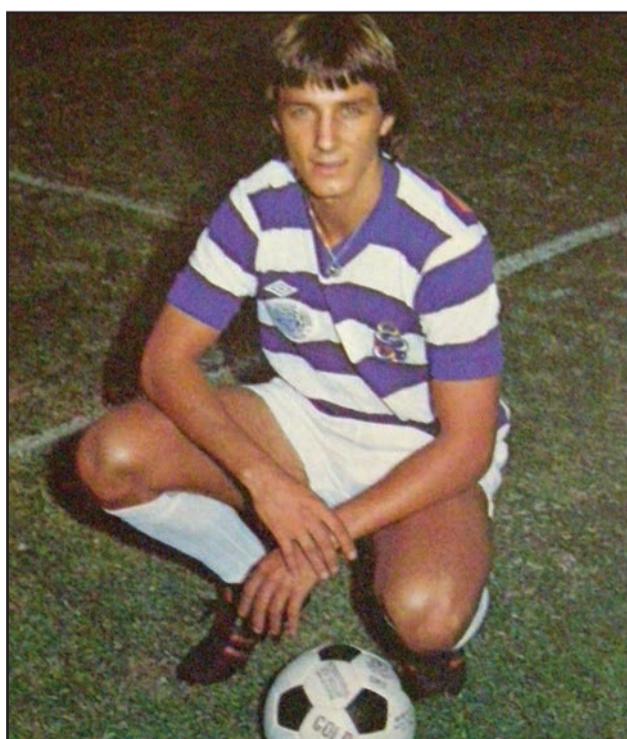
Ray Baartz in 1969 with the Socceroos. He and Col Curran were Adamstown products. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.



Newcastle Jets captain Jade North with the 2007-08 A-League trophy.
Photo: GEOFF JONES



Three Rosebuds and Reg Date. Gordon 'Bunny' Nunn, Bob Laurie and Alan Johns of Adamstown with Reg Date of Wallsend, all Newcastle stalwarts. Source: Sid Grant, Jack Pollard's Soccer Records.



Newcastle boy, Joe Senkalski, seen here in Sydney Olympic colours in 1978.
Source: Soccerlife, August 1978, p. 15.

Mariners set the early pace in NYL

By Daniel Quinn

Mariners hit Victory for six

Central Coast Mariners has smashed Melbourne Victory 6-0 on Friday night at Plum Park.

Mariners started with overage players Olyroo Brad McDonald and Adrian Pellegrino and it was McDonald who opened the scoring on 15 minutes. He finished nicely after being played in by Appiah-Kubi.

On 24 minutes Justin Hayward got his first of the night when a Victory defender handled in the area. Hayward stepped up to tuck it away. Three minutes later it was 3-0 when McDonald ran down the left wing to find Pellegrino who smashed home from close range.

On 30 minutes Hayward scored his second and second penalty after smashing it past Rani Dowisha in goal. Hayward earned his hat-trick and Mariners fifth to make 5-0 when he finished from six yards, 5-0 to the hosts at half-time.

The second-half became a scrappy, dull affair after both sides cleared their benches. Mariners did so to save some energy from their overage players while Victory looked to get something out of the game.

Late in the half Dowisha showed his class despite conceding 5 times to pull off a great save from a Sam Gallagher free-kick. Although Dowisha and Victory would concede a sixth when Appiah-Kubi finished low past Dowisha on 85 minutes.

Victory coach Darren Davies looked to the positive. "We were always going to be up against it this weekend with the first team injuries and players who were called into the first team so we actually had seven of our training squad players. So I like to look at the positives and the training players played with the young players so we had a very, very young squad yet again and that can only benefit them. The other positive is Petar Franjic and James Jeggo played in the first-team and that is what it is all about so I'd rather they be with the first team than with us."

Davies also voiced his opinion on Friday night games. "I think Friday night games have to be looked at because these boys are all in school and they have had to take days off school and some of them are in year 12 so they have got important exams so Friday night games are very difficult to say the least for a National Youth League team."

Heart makes it three from four

Melbourne Heart made three wins from four by defeating The Newcastle Jets 3-1 at John Cain Memorial Park on Sunday afternoon.

Kristian Sarkies, Rutger Worm and Adrian Madschi were the overage players for the hosts whereas Newcastle had Marko Jesic, Labinot Haliti, Tiago Calvano and Mario Simic.

Heart opened the scoring with their first chance on 2 minutes when a delightful, floated free-kick by Sarkies was headed home by Rutger Worm. Four minutes later Brodie Patterson had a chance to extend that lead when he was played in by Stipo Andrijasevic but Patterson failed to finish with an open goal staring him in the face.

Heart continued their early pressure when Newcastle 'keeper Jack Duncan's poor touch outside of the box let Andrijasevic in. However Duncan made up for his mistake with a good low save from the Heart forward. Andrijasevic had yet another chance three minutes later when he put a wonderful Goodwin cross over from a header.

On 21 minutes Andrijasevic thought he finally



Josh Groenewald (second from right) powers home Hearts' second goal against the Jets.

Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

scored his deserved goal but the Referee's Assistant flagged for offside. A decision which would come back to hurt them immediately when two minutes later Newcastle equalised with their first opportunity when Labinot Haliti tapped home from a great Andrew Hoole cross.

Two minutes before half-time Andrijasevic yet again should have given his side the lead but his poke from six yards narrowly missed the target. Craig Goodwin yet again with the brilliant cross for Andrijasevic. In first-half stoppage time Haliti had a great chance to take a shock lead into the break but after rounding the 'keeper, Mattei got back up to make a great save.

Kristian Sarkies yet again was crucial after the break with a curling free-kick which went just wide. But it was the visitors who went up the other end but Haliti's strike was well saved by Mattei.

On 63 minutes second-half substitute Josh Groenewald made it 2-1 with a great header after another Sarkies free-kick. The former Melbourne Victory and Adelaide set piece maestro proving to be in some great form.

Seven minutes later Newcastle's job was made even more difficult when Mario Simic was given two yellow cards in a minute and then sent off. The first yellow for a tug on Craig Goodwin then another for arguing with the referee.

The red card proved to be an important factor when two minutes later Zac Walker made it

3-1 when he finished after a great Billy Liolios through ball. A controversial goal as Liolios fended off Kyle Ewart in the build up.

Heart coach and former Socceroo John Aloisi voiced his opinion on his team's performance "It was not bad but we can always improve on some aspects of our game. Can't complain too much, we scored three goals, we created a few chances in the first-half. I thought we should have been two or three up at half-time and we conceded one that we weren't happy about. It wasn't a bad performance."

John Aloisi praised some of his younger players. "We are there to develop but also we give an opportunity to players to play. We had Phil Petreski at Left Back, he was born in 1993 and I thought he was one of our best players today. Brodie Patterson was born in 1994 and he did really well but we also have a couple older players who have not gone through the system who I think are good players, so that is why I have got them in and hopefully they might get to the next level."

Roar too strong for AIS

Brisbane Roar has defeated The AIS 3-2 on Saturday at Cleveland Showgrounds.

Brisbane opened the scoring on 10 minutes when George Lambadaridis finished powerfully in the bottom left corner of the net.

But the hosts lead only lasted two minutes when The AIS equalised through Anthony Proia who hit the crossbar before firmly finishing past Matt Acton.

On 17 minutes Brisbane had the lead through Nicholas Fitzgerald after he cut in from the left and beat The AIS defenders.

Later on in the half Fitzgerald had a brace and Roar's third after finishing nicely in the corner. Like Fitzgerald, Lambadaridis wanted his double just before half-time but his first-time shot smashed the crossbar. AIS 'keeper Paul Izzo then saved well from Visconti's follow up shot.

Just before half-time in first-half injury time AIS were brought back into the game after Matt Mundy took out an attacker while one-on-one with the 'keeper to earn himself a straight red card. Anthony Proia stepped up and scored his brace.

Roar held on for their lead in the second-half with the extra man as AIS attacked. AIS however only created one serious chance through Proia yet again. His shot from close-range however went over as Matt Acton came out to pressure.

AIS defender Riley Woodcock earned himself a second yellow card on 89 minutes to see both teams finish with 10 men. Roar however held on for the 3-2 win.

Mallia hat-trick sinks Glory

Sydney has defeated Perth Glory 5-2 thanks to a hat-trick from Mitchell Mallia at GPR Stadium on Sunday.

Perth had the first chance on seven minutes through Tommy Amphlett but his shot was put wide.

Marquee man Mile Sterjovski then forced Ryan Norval into a great save on 11 minutes. Sydney's first opportunity came on 15 minutes when Mallia's shot was saved by Lewis Italiano before Italiano's face was in the way to save from Joe Gibbs.

Mallia's first goal came on 29 minutes to open the scoring for the away side as he rounded the goalkeeper before finishing.

Sydney then extended their lead on 39 minutes through Joel Chianese as Brandon O'Neill's headed clearance went straight up in the air, which allowed Chianese to head home.

Three minutes later Mallia had his second and Sydney's third as he blasted a 20-metre strike into the back of the net after cutting in from the right.

The second-half continued as the first finished with Dimitri Petratos smashing home after Storm Roux miss-kicked a Mallia cross. Perth came back in, although they were four goals down. Ndumba Makeche was the influence as he had a strike cleared off the line before hitting the crossbar with a strong effort on 68 minutes.

Perth did pull one back on 76 minutes with Alex Caniglia who curled home.

Five minutes later Glory was denied another strike as Makeche's header was cleared off the line once again.

Mallia then finished off Perth with his hat-trick on 85 minutes after a goalmouth scramble. Perth had one last chance for redemption

Results

CC Mariners 6:0 Melbourne Victory
Brisbane Roar 3:2 AIS
Perth Glory 2:5 Sydney FC
Melbourne Heart 3:1 Newcastle Jets
Gold Coast United 4:1 Adelaide United

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	P
1 CC Mariners	5	3	1	1	16	4	12	10
2 Brisbane Roar FC	4	3	0	1	11	6	5	9
3 Melbourne Heart	4	3	0	1	7	6	1	9
4 Perth Glory FC	4	2	1	1	9	8	1	7
5 Sydney FC	4	2	1	1	11	5	6	7
6 Newcastle Jets FC	4	1	2	1	6	7	-1	5
7 Adelaide United	4	1	1	2	5	7	-2	4
8 Gold Coast United	4	1	0	3	6	8	-2	3
9 AIS	3	1	0	2	4	6	-2	3
10 Melbourne Victory	4	0	0	4	1	19	-18	0

Next Round

19 Nov 11 3:00pm	Gold Coast United Vs Melbourne Heart
Owen Park, Southport	
19 Nov 11 4:30pm	Adelaide United Vs Perth Glory
Burton Park	
20 Nov 11 11:00am	Central Coast Mariners Youth Vs AIS
Plum Park, Central Coast	
20 Nov 11 3:00pm	Sydney FC Vs Melbourne Victory
Leichhardt Oval, Sydney	
20 Nov 11 4:00pm	Newcastle Jets FC Vs Brisbane Roar
Adamstown Oval, Newcastle	

through Makeche yet again but his strike was saved and driven home by Byron Hudson. 5-2 it finished.

Reigning Champs grab first win

Reigning Champions Gold Coast United have won their first game of the season by defeating Adelaide United 4-1 at Owen Park on Sunday.

On 4 minutes the day didn't start as the visitors would have liked when Daniel Severino smashed the crossbar. As the ball dropped down on the line John Hall in goal was too late to react.

Two minutes later Teeboy Kamara had a great chance to grab an early equaliser but his shot was put across the face of goal.

On 10 minutes Mitch Bevan extended the home sides lead with a nice finish to make it 2-0.

Nine minutes before half-time Adelaide Captain Allan Welsh forced Gold Coast 'keeper Jerrad Tyson to save well with a nicely hit free-kick.

The hosts then made it 3-0 on 57 minutes through Young Socceroo Jake Barker-Daish who tapped home after Harold's shot was saved by Hall.

Adelaide did get their consolation with Liam Wooding curling a stunning strike on 84 minutes from long range.

Gold Coast however extended their lead back to the three goal margin as Kwame Yeboah made in 4-1.



Rutger Worm (Heart) goes to great lengths to stop Mario Simic (Jets). Matro Jesic asks the ref what he thinks of the tackle. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Zac Walker looks to someone in the grandstand as he celebrates his goal, which put Heart 3-2 ahead of the Jets. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Canberra remain unbeaten; SFC grounds Jets

By Ann Odong

Canberra United's unbeaten start to the season has continued with solid 2 - 1 win over Melbourne Victory in Week 4 of the Westfield W-League. A commanding 4 - 1 victory saw Sydney FC leapfrogged Newcastle Jets into second spot while the Brisbane Roar held on to prevail 2 - 1 over Adelaide United.

Canberra United v Melbourne Victory

Canberra United has increased their lead at the top of the ladder courtesy of a 2 - 1 win over Melbourne Victory. Ashleigh Sykes struck for the second consecutive week and Taryn Hemmings opened her W-League account while, for the visitors, Kendall Fletcher gained a consolation goal.

The home side started confidently with leading striker Michelle Heyman forcing Melbourne goalkeeper Brianna Davey to turn her low strike around the post for a corner. However, Victory were quick to respond with captain Jodie Taylor finding herself in space. Rounding Lydia Williams, albeit on an acute angle, Taylor disappointingly sent her strike across the goal face with an empty net beckoning. Melbourne kept up the attack with Stephanie Catley's strike producing a smart save from Williams on 15 minutes. Having survived the onslaught, the home side then hit the lead with their first real opening. Sally Shipard won the ball before releasing Elyse Perry on the right. Perry's near post ball found Sykes who tucked it home.

Again Melbourne looked to respond quickly but Catley and Katrina Gorry both squandered their chances by blazing high over the crossbar. Six minutes from the break, the visitors were made to pay not taking their chances as Canberra took a 2 - 0 lead. Forward Caitlin Munoz set up the chance when she spotted Hemmings tracking to the back post. Never breaking her stride, Hemmings met Munoz's pin point pass on the half volley sweetly sending it into the top corner.

Canberra took advantage of their half time lead after the restart with Heyman sending a curling effort from distance just wide of the far post. Undeterred, Victory again went close to their opener but Taylor and Gorry were both denied in the 67th minute by a brilliant double save from Williams. Melbourne eventual received reward for their effort Fletcher received a nicely weighted through ball just inside the penalty box and finished across Williams. The final 15 minutes saw the Victory camp out in Canberra's half but the ladder leaders displayed their defensive credentials to hold out the fast finishing Melbourne.

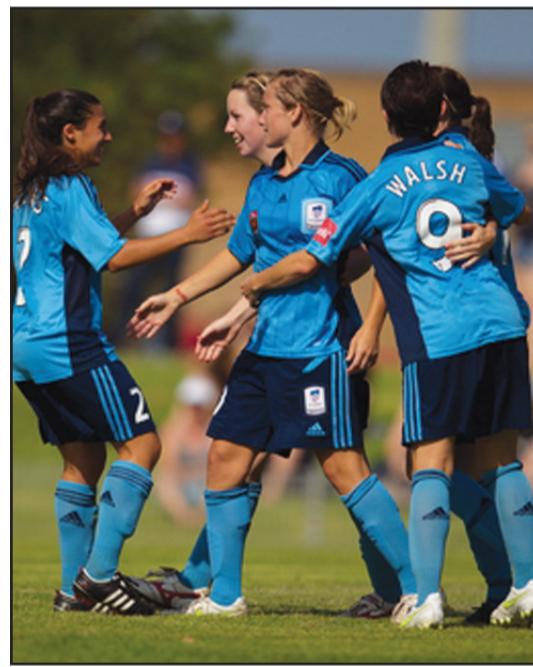
Newcastle Jets v Sydney FC

Sydney FC head into their season break in form after a scorching second half set up a 4 - 1 defeat of the previously unbeaten Newcastle Jets.

In front of another bumper Newcastle crowd, the visitors signaled their intent with a positive start. Back wearing the captain's armband, Heather Garriock sent a dangerous cross in the box forcing Jets keeper Melissa Barbieri to punch clear. After the early scare the contest settled into a midfield battle with both defences reigning supreme. Monique Kofoed went closest for the Jets early on when she fired low from the edge of the area but Allison Lipsher was equal to the task. On 41 minutes Sarah Walsh looked to have open the scoring when she headed a cross only for it to be ruled out for offside. Minutes later Kofoed's effort found the back of the net only



Roar players celebrate after Gielnik's shot at goal hits the post, ricocheting to the head of Ashley SPINA (12), who headed it past Harvey and in for a goal. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



SFC girls celebrate. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



The scoreboard shows the pain for the Jets. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

Results

Canberra United 2 (Ashleigh Sykes 24', Taryn Hemmings 39')

Melbourne Victory 1 (Kendall Fletcher 78')

Newcastle Jets 1 (Andrew 86)

Sydney FC 4 (Ledbrook 46, Slatyer 57, Foord 64, Garriock 76)

Perth Glory Vs Bye

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Canberra United FC	4	4	0	0	10	4	6
2 Sydney FC	4	2	1	1	7	4	3
3 Newcastle Jets FC	3	2	0	1	7	6	1
4 Brisbane Roar	3	1	1	5	5	0	4
5 Melbourne Victory	3	1	0	2	4	4	0
6 Perth Glory FC	3	1	0	2	4	6	-2
7 Adelaide United FC	4	0	0	4	3	11	-8

Next Round

19 Nov 11 3:00pm

Canberra United Vs Newcastle Jets
McKellar Park, Canberra

19 Nov 11 4:00pm

Perth Glory Vs Brisbane Roar
6PR Stadium, Inglewood

19 Nov 11 5:00pm

Melbourne Victory Vs Adelaide United
Veneto Club, Bulleen

Sydney FC Vs Bye



Monique Kofoed scores for the Jets. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

for her to suffer the same fate as Walsh. Nearing the break, the Jets received a body blow when a heavy collision between Lipshter and striker Lisa de Vanna ended in the latter being stretchered off. While De Vanna returned for several minutes on the half time whistle she was subbed out of the game.

On the resumption of play Sydney stepped up the tempo and were quickly rewarded for it. Walsh found space on the right wing and supplied a dangerous cross on the six yard box. Barbieri attempted to collect the ball but the advancing Kylie Ledbrook got their first to pass it home into an empty net and give Sydney the lead. In front, the Sky

Blues took full control of the match with senior members Ledbrook, Walsh, Garriock and Rollason controlling proceedings. In the 57th minute they doubled their lead when defender Slatyer slotted home a loose ball from 18 yards out. Super sub Caitlin Foord pounced to put Sydney out of sight as she took advantage of a sloppy back pass to round Barbieri and coolly tap home. Garriock capped off her great performance in the 76th minute as her deep cross was split by Barbieri when she landed heavily to into the open goal. Newcastle eventually found a way through Andrews but it was too little too late.

Adelaide United v Brisbane Roar
A Clare Polkinghorne long range strike and Ashley Spina's header have helped Brisbane Roar to their first win of the season as they downed Adelaide United 2 - 1 at Burton Park.

It was a flat start to the encounter with neither side really gaining the ascendancy and when it did pick up it was Adelaide who fashioned the first chances. On the half hour star Reds' striker Racheal Quigley's missed by inches when her strike sailed wide to the left. Next it was Marijana Rajic's turn as her diving effort on goal was only diverted off course by defender Laura Allesway for an Adelaide corner. After

riding their luck, Brisbane were clinical at the other end as in the 38th minute, Polkinghorne unleashed from 25 yards out and the resulting shot deflected over the outstretched arms of Reds' goalkeeper Kristi Harvey. The Roar captained looked to get her second just minutes later as her well timed ball compelled a diving save from Harvey to keep the score line to 1 - 0 at half-time. Upon commencement of the second half, the home side looked to quickly bring things level but Donna Cockayne was denied by Roar's stand in keeper Hoshimi Kishi. Despite a number of half chances, Adelaide were unable to find that equaliser and on 63 minutes they went behind further. Emily Gielnik produced a trademark close range shot to beat Harvey only to cannon into the right post. Having retained the ball, Spina found herself on the end of a lofted ball to head home. Although down, Adelaide managed to work back into the match as Kishi fumbled a cross allowing Rajic finish into an open net on 76 minutes. Then they looked to draw level but with an open goal beckoning, Cockayne made a meal of the opportunity to make it 2 - 2. Still Adelaide pressed in the final minutes of the match with numerous chances but Kishi did her part with several big saves to give Brisbane all three points.



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V-LEAGUE NIKE PREMIERSHIP

Round Three

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By Matthew Montgomery

North Melbourne FC v Brimbank FC (4-3)

To open the action for round 3 of the 2011-12 NIKE V-League season saw the current league and cup holders, North Melbourne FC go head to head with Brimbank who were up for a mighty challenge.

Without the creative presence of Fernando De Moraes and Tiago Priori, it was always going to be a difficult task for North to overcome the newly promoted Brimbank boys who have been playing with a new found sense of belief in the past few weeks, but their hopes of claiming all three points suffered a minor setback as giant striker, Mirza Pedic scored from long range to put the champs in front – although it should have been a routine save for keeper Muhammed Kuzucu, the young keeper soon made up for it denying wonderful strikes from Jon Barrientos and Alex Jankovic respectively.

After completely dominating possession and twice hitting the post, North were left completely dumbfounded as Brimbank bobbed up from two brilliantly timed counter-attacks to take a surprise 2-1 lead as Arin Mesinovic and Emir Ameti scored late in the half.

After the break, Hara Yoshinoya restored order with a quick reply, showing some brilliant foot skills in the 'D' only for Brimbank's in-form player, Aljic Karic to restore his sides narrow lead minutes later with a beautifully timed long range strike.

It could have almost been panic stations for North as Brimbank's confidence at getting a result out of the game seem to grow and grow, but the champs weren't phased as they grew even stronger under pressure, with Adam Cooper and Alex Jankovic smashing the frame-work three times between them and scoring the next two goals through Jason Barrientos and a stunning free-kick from Cooper made sure that the dark blues 28-game unbeaten run was maintained.

There was no doubt that Brimbank had put in a very encouraging display and will be fancying their chances next week as they look to claim their first win of the season against Fitzroy. North on the other hand will be hoping that either Fernando or Tiago – or both – will return to the side to take on a red-hot Prahran side in what will surely be the match of the round when they lock horns at 8pm next week.

FC Balwyn v FC Richmond (5-4)
After coming off a disappointing loss to Essendon last week, the Balwyn management team had made a very big decision to re-call former goal keeper – now manager – Mario Roza to replace the young Frano Saric who had arguably his worst performance in the V-League yet.

After spending almost an entire season on the side-line, there was a lot of pressure on the veteran keeper as he looked to defend a very pumped up Richmond unit after claiming their first point of the season in only their second outing last week, and the lads in yellow and black continued their impressive early season form, racing to a 2-0 lead with a well taken double from playmaker Giuseppe Amanoai.

Richmond could have gone further in front if it weren't for some brilliant keeping from Roza who really had to be on his toes to deny two damaging strikes from Mo Alghorabi.

The towering keepers efforts were soon rewarded as Ivan Zelic and a Jaffer Al-Sari own goal got Balwyn back into the game and on level terms with only seconds before half time.

Just as it seemed that Richmond were going to let yet another lead slip (as they did last week against Ashburton) goals from Alghorabi and Amanoai – who completed his hat-trick – reinstated their two goal lead mid-way into the final half.

Desperate to hold onto their lead, Richmond were defending doggedly, which in turn led to them giving away a fifth foul penalty, but the tigers were let off the hook as Mo Tankir could not get his strike on target. Running out of time in a hurry, it was a tactical move from Balwyn manager Matt Obeid that changed the out-look of the game as he moved his usually 'fixed' defender in Tony Saric up front to score two quick goals and level the game.

But there was more heartache yet to come for last seasons State league champions as Mark

Paco sail and Metro fail in Round 3



The Ashburton lads swamp match-winner, Sofiane Soufi after converting a penalty after the final whistle.



Essendon's Andrew Nabbout (L) on his way to yet another 4 goal haul against Metro - his third in as many rounds.

Ashburton FC v CF Brunswick (7-6)

The next game on the roster saw Ashburton take on Brunswick and with many changes to both line-ups, the result was a complete unknown to the healthy V-League crowd.

Ashburton, who are still in a transitional phase gave debuts to Tim Howard and French import Sofiane Soufi. Brunswick had many changes of their own as captain Munya Nyadzayo (un-available), Mathieu Piga and Danny Ngulauafe (suspension) were all absent from the reds line-up, although Jason Ioannidis made a return along with the surprise inclusion of former Fitzroy striker Jose Portillo.

The 'green machine' gifted the reds a dream start as Ravel Tavares deflected in a cross for a soft own goal, only for team mate Leonardo Correa to save his blushes with a quick double resulting in a 2-1 lead. Brunswick's Jose Portillo proved his inclusion was worthwhile to new manager Nikos Ignatiadis as he also scored two stunning goals to claw back the lead at 3-2.

It seemed after weeks of tinkering with the squad, Ashburton manager Morris Christiano finally got his side ticking like a well oiled machine with Rodrigo and Correa both smashing the post, although Correa went one better than his Brazilian compatriot scoring his third of the half. After being out played in large portions of the first half, Brunswick's Mike Sharples snuck his strike past Harry Kitharidis to somehow go into the break with a one goal advantage at 4-3.

Not wanting to take any chances at losing their narrow lead, the reds dynamo midfielder, Ruiz Roslan scored a brace to really stamp their authority over their lowly ranked opponents – or so they thought.

Any team who went two goals down to a quality side such as Brunswick would normally let seeds of doubt slowly cloud over the squad, but a vicious toe poke from captain Mus Elorr would give Ashburton the spark they needed to find a way back into the game.

After not making a huge impact in the second half, Frenchman Sofiane Soufi came off the bench at 4-6 late in the half to put in one of the most dominating performances this season.

Playing as a target, Soufi was able to hold off the likes of Antonis Apostolakis – who is not usually beaten with ease – to score the two needed goals to equalise at 6-6. Soufi could have had four majors within a matter of minutes, but he was denied by the cross-bar on two occasions.

With the result still up in the air, both teams desperately pressing for a winner and the clock into its final seconds, Soufi was left

unmarked close to goal and before he could strike was tackled with two feet from behind from Apostolakis to earn the wily defender a red and gift Ashburton a 2nd spot penalty with ten seconds remaining.

Who else would you give the ball to at this moment than the man who could have had at least 5 goals to his name and was brimming with confidence? Who else but Soufi! The V-league debutant stepped up with nerves of steel to convert the penalty off the left post, much to his team mates delight, immediately getting swamped.

Although unlikely, it was a much needed win for Ashburton who face 'Paco' next week. Brunswick, who will be beside themselves will need to regroup, rebuild and quickly bounce back before their do or die encounter against Balwyn.

FC Essendon v Metropolitan FC (7-5)

The drama continued long into the night as the next encounter bore yet another dream match-up when Essendon went up against foot of the table Metropolitan in which former Essendon stalwart, Alexander Stevanovic lined up against his old side (which he scored over 350 goals in six seasons) for the first time!

The opening passages of play all went according to plan for the sky blues as they tried to claim their first points of the season with Stevanovic settling the nerves with the opening goal, followed by majors from Tomo Grigic and Alija Redzepovic to make it a comfortable 3-0 lead.

Although Metro were in the lead, they weren't necessarily 'dominating' play – as silly as that sounds – with Essendon dominating possession and the shot count, it was only a matter of time until the 2009 premiers opened their account and who else was going to score but the two men that have been the reason for Essendon's red-hot form in Vlado Zoric and Andrew Nabbout who scored a brace to level at 3-3 before the break.

The second period opened in very different circumstances to the first as both teams aimed to firm their defences. It took a first-class strike from beyond half way by none other than Metro keeper Damiir Salcin to open the scoring, but it seemed that the peach of a strike would be the catalyst to the floodgates opening on his goal as Zoric bagged his second to yet again level the scores.

As time continued to wither away, Alija Redzepovic gave his lads the best chance of claiming their first win of the season when he turned in Salcin's strike at the back post, but

that would be as close to the points as Metro would get as Andrew Nabbout – for the third week in a row – scored a double to take his match tally to a lazy 4 and a late goal from Diego Assaeada sealed the red third win of the season.

Joining Pascoe Vale as one of the inform teams in the league, Essendon will sense a major opportunity to make it four wins in as many games when they line up against Mickleham. Metropolitan on the other hand will have to really dig deep to find the answers they need to kick-start their season when they take on the very dangerous and more than capable Richmond.

FC Prahran v Mickleham FC (6-2)

To wrap up the night, Prahran and Mickleham went toe to toe in a game which could have – or should have – had a prime time game slot.

After receiving a red card in the opening round, Heo Tran made a return to the Prahran line up, where Mickleham saw Kire Ristevski, Ryan Filipovic and Jamie Tran – who replaced Baz Fejzulovski in goals – made their first appearances in the 2011-12 season. The first half was a very tightly contested affair as both sides had plenty of chances to score.

Prahran were the ones who took their chances as goals from Clint Mogaoi and Maxi Avram gave them a narrow 2-1 lead over Mickleham who had a Jacob Colosimo free-kick to thank for being in with a chance at half time.

The Prahran lads could have extended their lead quite easily only for Marcus Barbosa and Avram's efforts to be denied by the post. A brace from Mogaoi and a single from Barbosa to open the second half signalled that Prahran were going to improve on their first half as they took all their early chances, going to a 5-1 lead.

The defensive partnership of Mogaoi and Resit Culukoglu made sure that Mickleham stood no chance of making a comeback, only a Jacob Colosimo 2nd spot penalty could penetrate past keeper Michael Chami who was solid all night. Marcus Barbosa's second of the night capped off the 6-2 scoreline for Prahran who after their opening round loss to Balwyn have won their last two games and have really started to play some beautiful and free-flowing futsal. But next week, all will be revealed as to how far Prahran has actually developed as a 'team' when they take on North Melbourne who have not been in the best form of late, but they are still undefeated in 28 games! It will be one that the entire futsal community can't wait to see the result of!

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	3	3	0	0	26	8	18	9
2 FC Essendon	3	3	0	0	24	15	9	9
3 North Melbourne FC	3	3	0	0	15	10	5	9
4 FC Prahran	3	2	0	1	21	10	11	6
5 FC Balwyn	3	2	0	1	14	15	-1	6
6 Ashburton FC	3	1	1	1	17	19	-2	4
7 CF Brunswick	3	1	0	2	15	20	-5	3
8 Fitzroy FC	3	1	0	2	12	17	-5	3
9 Brimbank FC	3	0	1	2	12	17	-5	1
10 FC Richmond	3	0	1	2	11	17	-6	1
11 Mickleham FC	3	0	1	2	9	16	-7	1
12 Metropolitan FC	3	0	0	3	13	25	-12	0

Round Three RESULTS

Wed 16th Nov

- 6:30 North Melbourne FC v Brimbank FC 4 - 3
- 7:15 FC Balwyn v FC Richmond 5 - 4
- 8:00 Fitzroy FC v Pascoe Vale FC 0 - 9
- 8:45 Ashburton FC v CF Brunswick 7 - 6
- 9:30 FC Essendon v Metropolitan FC 7 - 5
- 10:15 FC Prahran v Mickleham FC 6 - 2

Round Four Clashes

Wed 22nd Nov

- 6:30 FC Essendon v Mickleham FC
- 7:15 Ashburton FC v Pascoe Vale FC
- 8:00 FC Prahran v North Melbourne FC
- 8:45 Fitzroy FC v Brimbank FC
- 9:30 FC Richmond v Metropolitan FC
- 10:15 FC Balwyn v CF Brunswick

FoZ Cup Top Goal Scorers

1. A. Nabbout FCE 12
2. M. Avram FCP 9
3. J. Da Silva PVFC 8
4. Jason. Barrientos North FC 6

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Suarez the hero; Argentina escape with valuable win

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

Much of the action this past week turned to international duty with most domestic and cup action on hold across the Latin American continent.

The week of World Cup qualifiers began early Saturday with the last two fixture rounds for the year. It was Buenos Aires the setting, the Monumental or River Plate stadium where Argentina hosted Bolivia.

Things were going as normal, Argentina dominated midfield and possession while the visitors held themselves at the back with their clear inferiority to their much more high-profile rivals but Marcelo Moreno Martins had other ideas, robbing the ball off defender Martin Demichelis to put Bolivia ahead.

Jeers were heard all around the stadium and all eyes were on Lionel Messi to lift up the team. Somehow, a goal by Gonzalo Higuain was controversially disallowed and it took Ezequiel Lavezzi to put Argentina on the scoreboard, 1-1 and the surprise result of the round.

Coach Alejandro Sabella admitted it was a below par performance and things needed to change for their trip away in Barranquilla to Colombia. That match was played on Wednesday as Messi and Agüero stood up to the occasion and lifted the albiceleste to a valuable 2-1 win over the famous coffee makers in a rainy, wet and humid Metropolitan stadium in the Caribbean port city.



Sergio Agüero jubilant for Argentina over his last-gasp winner against Colombia in a hot, wet and humid match in Barranquilla on Wednesday



Relief after all as Matías Campos Toro seals victory for Chile over Paraguay on Wednesday putting a very difficult and disappointing week behind them.

Colombia got off to a flyer just before half-time opening up their account with a shot from Carlos Pabón which deflected Javier Mascherano. It was an ordinary Argentina but they came up with the goods.

Leonel Álvarez, Colombia's coach has a number of youth and up-and-coming talent to his disposal. Their football is at times very attractive, offensive but are lacking with some frailties at the back. This cost them the match to Argentina as Messi dribbled in between the defensive lines, as did Venezuela in their match at the same ground in Barranquilla on Saturday which ended 1-1.

In the dying minutes, Frank Feltscher put the Venezuelans level by squeezing himself onto a hapless back-pass and slotting the ball past goalkeeper David Ospina. Porto midfielder, Fredy Guarín - who came off injured put Colombia ahead with a thrilling shot from over 30 yards. A disappointing two rounds for Colombia with just a single point.

Venezuela are still on a high after

their hard-fought win over Argentina last month, and following their away draw to Colombia faced lowly Bolivia at home in San Cristóbal.

The match however was a tight affair, only managing to score courtesy of defender Oswaldo Vizcarrondo from a set-piece corner kick just before the half hour to put César Farías' men up level at the top of the standings in joint second spot behind group leaders Uruguay and with Argentina.

Their current form goes to show that Venezuela are no fluke after their triumphant fourth-place showing earlier this year in the Copa América.

Talking about set-pieces, Paraguay are the dead-ball specialists and they had a up-and-down turn of results. On Saturday, they hosted a gallant, and fighting Ecuador at home in Asunción at the always-tricky Defensores del Chaco stadium.

Two picture-perfect, identical set pieces from two corner kicks was all it took for Francisco "Chiqui" Arce's side

to dispose Ecuador with Víctor Ayala executing his trademark dead-balls for Cristián Riveros and defender Dario Verón to twice put the ball past goalkeeper Máximo Banguera.

A late consolation was scored by Joao Rojas with a stunning header on stoppage time.

Four days later, Paraguay flew to Santiago to visit a bruised and battered Chilean side that got humiliated at the historical Centenario stadium in Montevideo by Luis Suárez and his Uruguayan side.

The scoreboard must have read Luis Suárez 4 - Chile 0 as the Liverpool forward tore a slow and sluggish Chilean defence in an inspiring win for Óscar Washington Tabárez's side.

Uruguay on Wednesday flew to Rome to play Italy in an international friendly taking full advantage of their bye fixture as well as their number of foreign-based players in Europe, getting the single goal by Málaga forward Sebastián Fernández for the win at the

Stadio Olimpico.

Back to Chile, after a tough week for coach Claudio Borghi - suspending 5 of his players for turning up late to the team hotel and in an "inadequate state", the loss to Uruguay was just too much to handle.

A desperate win was needed against Paraguay at the Nacional stadium in Santiago where Paraguay tried time and time again to break down Chile's defence up in the air, sending in long balls but goalkeeper Claudio Bravo this time was up to the task, leaving behind his mistakes against Uruguay behind.

Just before the half-hour, Pablo Contreras - the veteran defender who plays with Greek club PAOK Salonika leaped up to score a header and release a lot of tension and pressure off their shoulders. Alexis Sánchez was also back to add that spice up front.

Substitute Matías Campos Toro made it 2-0 with five minutes to go capping a heroic victory over Paraguay and much-needed three points for Chile.

Both sides had already played and beaten Ecuador and Peru respectively as they played each other in Quito, the Ecuadorean capital, early Wednesday.

Peru, coming off their bye fixture on Saturday looked to have struggled a bit as Ecuador made their home presence felt, grabbing the three points in a match that was marred by incidents after the full-time whistle.

Two goals in the last 20 minutes of play from veteran Edson Méndez and Cristián Benítez was enough to seal the win for Ecuador.

There will be no qualifying action until June of next year so plenty of time to re-gather, call-up fresh faces who will be in-form and continue the journey for Brazil 2014.

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FOOTBALL BRIEFS

Van Gaal set for Ajax return
Former Bayern Munich coach Louis van Gaal will return to Ajax in a general director role next year, the Eredivisie champions have announced.

The 60-year-old was sacked by Bayern last season after guiding them to the 2009/10 Bundesliga title as well as the Champions League final in the same season.

Former player Danny Blind and Martin Sturkenboom are in line to complete a re-shuffled board as technical and financial director respectively.

Van Gaal returns to Ajax for a third stint having enjoyed an illustrious career in the Dutch capital.

He began his coaching career in Amsterdam in 1991 before leading Ajax to a UEFA Cup in 1992 and a Champions League three years later.

Suarez charged

Luis Suarez has been charged over allegations he racially abused Patrice Evra in Liverpool's hosting of Manchester United in October.

The English FA released a statement on Wednesday confirming they had charged Liverpool forward Suarez with racial conduct, stating: "It is alleged that Suarez used abusive and/or insulting words and/or behaviour towards Manchester United's Patrice Evra contrary to FA rules."

"It is further alleged that this included a reference to the ethnic origin and/or colour and/or race of Patrice Evra."

Liverpool have issued their own statement in reaction to the charge, announcing Uruguay striker Suarez would contest the charges: "We will discuss the matter fully with him when (Suarez) returns from international duty, but he will plead not guilty to the charge and we expect him to request a personal hearing."

Hiddink leaves Turkey post

The Turkish Football Federation have announced they have parted company with national team coach Guus Hiddink.

The Dutchman was appointed in August 2010 with the aim of qualifying for Euro 2012 but failed in his objective, after Croatia proved to be too much of an obstacle in the playoffs with a 3-0 aggregate win.

"After negotiations between Guus Hiddink and the Turkish Football Federation's board of directors, an agreement has been reached to terminate Guus Hiddink's contract by mutual consent," a statement on the official TFF website read on Wednesday.

"We would like to thank Guus Hiddink for his work with Turkey and wish him all the best for the future."

Hiddink, 65, coached Netherlands, South Korea, Australia and Russia before taking the reigns at Turkey. At club level, he has been at the helm of PSV, Fenerbahce, Valencia, Real Madrid and Chelsea.

Flamengo deny Ronaldinho sale

Flamengo sporting director Luiz Augusto Veloso said he is unaware of Panathinaikos' desire to lure Ronaldinho to Greece.

A spokesperson for potential new Panathinaikos owner Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud said on Tuesday that the former Barcelona star will be in Greece by the end of the year to sign with the Athens giants.

But Veloso said the Greek side have not yet approached Flamengo to discuss a potential transfer.

"We haven't heard anything from them. We are only aware of this story because of the international media," the Flamengo director told ESPN.

"For now, there's nothing to this story. It's nothing but speculation. If it becomes concrete, it's up to the president to deal with it."

"I have had direct contact with Ronaldinho and he is very happy in Rio and so is his family. We are very pleased to have him at Flamengo."

Beckham not in Capello plans

England manager Fabio Capello says he has no intention of selecting former captain David Beckham in his squad. Beckham missed out on the Italian's 2010 World Cup team because of an Achilles injury but did fly out to South Africa in an off-field role.

The LA Galaxy midfielder said last week he still has desires of representing his country, but he may have to wait until Capello leaves after Euro 2012, and at the age of 36 that could limit future opportunities.

When Capello was asked about Beckham being part of his off-field setup or being selected for Euro 2012, he told Sky Sports News: "No, I think he will only be involved in the Olympic Games. I don't know. I have time to decide. Is he in my plans now? No."

The 36-year-old Beckham has won 116 international caps with his last appearance coming in a win against Belarus in late 2009.

He is, however, expected to be part of the London Olympic Games squad.

Lippi plans coaching return

Former Italy boss Marcello Lippi wants to return to coaching and is eager to take charge of a national team before the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Lippi, 63, guided Italy to glory at the 2006 World Cup, but was unable to repeat that feat at last year's tournament in South Africa as the Azzurri crashed out in the group stage.

"I had a lot of success. But the last World Cup was not a success. I took one year off, for a mental break. Now I want to start my work again," Lippi said at the Aspire4Sport conference.

"However, I don't want to go back to a club. I want to go back to national team football to build a new national team and work at another World Cup, say in 2014."

"In the life of a coach, in fact in any kind of work, there are not only good moments but also bad moments. There are highs and lows."

Lippi enjoyed his most successful stint at Juventus and also coached Inter, Napoli and Atalanta.

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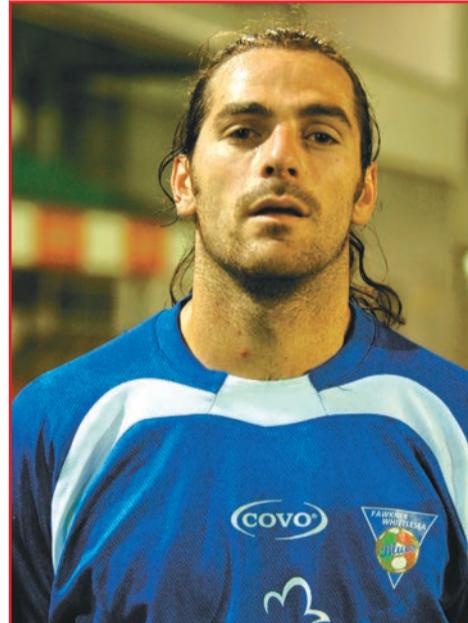
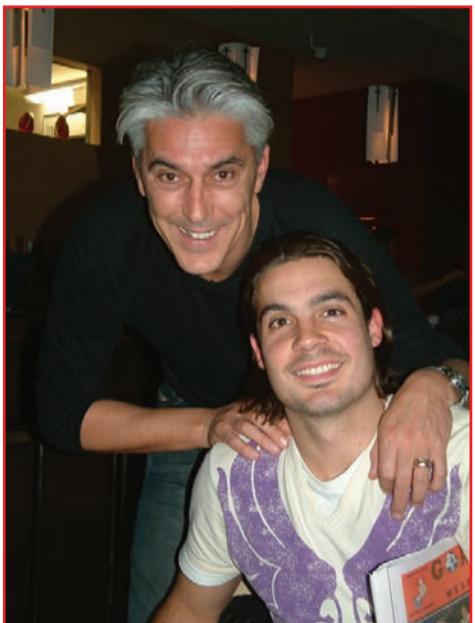
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Adrian Zahra (Melbourne Heart)



Cameron Watson (Adelaide United)

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City to test high flying Magpies

**EPL
Wrap**



Steven Talevski

Newcastle United is set to face their toughest test of the season as they meet Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium in clash where one team may earn their first loss of the season.

Currently in third position of the table, Newcastle United's undefeated streak spans fourteen matches as their last defeat in the Premier League came to Liverpool on May 1st last season.

Manchester City will go into the game with issues off the field as the Carlos Tevez scandal continues. Tevez was due to return to training by Monday but was nowhere to be seen with talks between the club and his representatives taking place.

A Tevez spokesperson told the Telegraph, "Over the weekend there have been a series of meetings and conference calls."

"Carlos is still in Argentina. However, both sides are in agreement that they want a resolution as quickly and as smoothly as possible. Discussions will probably be ongoing for the foreseeable future."

Meanwhile Manchester City may be on their way down to Australia as reported by Michael Lynch and Michael Gleeson in The Age.

Manchester City could host a match at their major sponsors ground, the Etihad Stadium in Melbourne with an A-League club such as Melbourne Victory or Melbourne Heart the most likely opponents.

The game is likely to occur in early June with Manchester City likely not



to be at full strength due to the upcoming European Champions in late June and the mid May finish of the English Premier League and European Champions League.

The Premier Leagues marquee clash of the weekend sees Chelsea host Liverpool at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea's influential midfielder Frank Lampard will go into the game full of confidence after scoring the only goal as England defeated world champions Spain in a friendly.

Meanwhile Chelsea and England Captain John Terry has come out and faced the media for the first time since the racial incident with QPR defender Anton Ferdinand, however he was unable to answer direct questions over the row.

Chelsea's woes with racial incidents continue as they have begun investigations after an executive club member claimed that a fan called Chelsea striker Daniel Sturridge a "monkey" during a Champions League tie against Genk on November 1st.

Liverpool is expected to be a tough test for Chelsea as inform striker Luis Suarez scored four goals for Uruguay

against Chile in a World Cup qualifier. Despite being ruled out of the international friendly against Italy by Uruguay manager Oscar Tabarez, Luis Suarez is expected to feature against Chelsea.

Second of the table Manchester United visit Swansea City at the Liberty Stadium and will be without striker Michael Owen who will be out until Christmas after suffering a thigh injury in the return Champions League tie against Romanians Otelul Galati.

Inform Arsenal also have an away trip as they travel to Carrow Road to face Norwich City who have only lost one match at home this season.

Former club captain Cesc Fabregas said that Arsenal may struggle keeping inform striker Robin Van Persie at the club.

"I don't know if they will keep him," Fabregas said. "It is his decision. At his age, if he wants to move, it will be his last chance and if he wants to stay he will stay and retire at Arsenal. We will see what he decides but he's been very loyal to Arsenal for a few years. He is a key player, the fans love him.

For me, he is the role model of Arsenal, the star player and they cannot afford to lose him."

Cross town rivals Tottenham are currently on an eight match undefeated streak in the Premier League and host Aston Villa at White Hart Lane on Tuesday morning.

Harry Redknapp may return to the touchline for Tottenham after he had a successful heart surgery.

The weekend also sees the two bottom sides take battle as Wigan Athletic host Blackburn Rovers at the DW Stadium. Wigan currently sits on the bottom of the table, just one point behind Blackburn. Their five points from 11 games is their worst start to a Premier League campaign as they look to continue being the only team never relegated from the top flight of English football.

In other matches Tim Cahill's Everton host Wolverhampton, Queens Park Rangers visit Stoke City, Fulham travel to Sunderland and West Bromwich Albion face Bolton at the Hawthorns.

Euro Parliament joins UEFA calls for action on match-fixing

The European Parliament has backed all of UEFA's key aims in the areas of betting and match-fixing. The vote at the European Parliament plenary session in Strasbourg adds a significant voice to UEFA's efforts to combat match-fixing in football.

UEFA President Michel Platini said: "I am delighted with this report and would like to congratulate the European Parliament for standing firmly on UEFA's side and against the criminal powers that orchestrate match-fixing in Europe. Through working together we can put a stop to the biggest threat facing the future of sport in Europe."

The resolution voted through on Wednesday by the MEPs calls for measures to protect the integrity of sport through cross-border cooperation between sport organisations and relevant public bodies. Importantly, it recognises the added value an EU-wide approach can have in the area of online betting. The MEPs also specifically recommend penalising betting fraud as a criminal offence throughout Europe.

The European Parliament's resolution on online gambling calls for the recognition of sport organisation's property rights to their competitions through a fair financial return from betting organisations. France is the first country in Europe to have enshrined this right into law.

Ultimately this property right ensures cooperation between sport organisers and betting companies, which leads to more transparency, better monitoring and control mechanisms, and can help to fight money laundering through betting.

The European Commission adopted a Green Paper on Online Gambling in the Internal Market in March this year, which launched a consultation process on, amongst other points, match-fixing. The resolution voted through sets out the European Parliament's position on

the Commission's green paper.

The European Parliament is the latest political body to join UEFA's efforts to combat matchfixing.

The Council of Europe adopted a resolution on match-fixing in September. President Platini also addressed the European sports ministers on the subject at their meeting in Krakow in October. The Polish Presidency of the EU aims to have combating match-fixing included in the EU Council conclusions later this year.



Wanna bet? UEFA chief Michel Platini welcomes the backing of the European Parliament in its quest to combat match fixing.

UCL Groups approach pivotal stage



5

By Matthew Galea

The Champions League returns next week with more Group Stage action, as Matchday Five slowly approaches after the latest round of international fixtures.

With only two games left to be played in the group stage for all the teams involved, this upcoming round of fixtures will prove pivotal as a host of teams look to secure their progression to the Final 16, or keep their chances of qualification, either for the knockout phases of the Champions League or the latter stages of the Europa League, alive.

Group A is perhaps the most keenly contested group, with three teams holding a real chance of qualification for the knock out phases of what is widely considered as the world's, not just the continent's, premier club completion.

As it stands, Bayern Munich look the favourites to take out the group, but Manchester City are lurking ominously behind the German giants. City face a tough Napoli outfit, who were perhaps unlucky not to beat the Citizens in Manchester, whilst FC Bayern will look to seal qualification with a win over Villarreal who have yet to pick up a point and have only managed to score one goal in four Champions League fixtures.

It is just as interesting in Group B, with all four team remaining in contention for knockout Champions League football. Inter top the group

on nine points, and look like they will stay there, but CSKA Moscow and Turkish outfit Tranzospor both sit on five points with Lille still only one game off a qualifying place with two points. Inter will play Tranzospor in Turkey, hoping to seal qualification and top spot, whilst Lille play a must win game in Russia against Moscow.

In Group C, Manchester United will look to cement their position at the top of the table by beating Benfica at Old Trafford. United's poor start to their Champions League campaign means that the task has become a little more complicated than originally hoped, and FC Basel are also in contention sitting on five points, only three behind Benfica and United. Basel will look to take all three points from pointless Otelul Galati.

Real Madrid are the only team in the competition with a perfect record, having won all four games they have played in the competition thus far. They have already guaranteed qualification to the next round with that form, but a win against Dinamo Zagreb in Madrid will seal top spot for one of the competition favourites. Ajax can also seal qualification by defeating challengers Lyon in France. Should Lyon manage a draw or a win, the second qualification spot will be decided on the final matchday, when Ajax will welcome Real Madrid, and Lyon will travel to Croatia.

In Group D, qualification favourites



Clash of the Titans takes place this week in the UEFA Champions League as Milan hosts Barcelona in a football fan's wet dream.

Chelsea and Bayern Leverkusen will look to take points off each other in the race for first place in Germany. A win for Chelsea will guarantee the London side qualification, but a win for Leverkusen would open up qualification for Leverkusen, Valencia and Chelsea on the final day. KRC Genk lag some way behind, but they could still have a big say in who qualifies and who doesn't. They will travel to Valencia on Matchday Five.

Arsenal will welcome a desperate Borussia Dortmund to the Emirates on Matchday Five. A win for Arsenal would secure qualification to the next round, but would end Dortmund's hopes, meaning the Germans will need to take at least a point from Arsene Wenger's Gunners, who have finally hit some devastating domestic form. Should Marseille win at home against Olympiacos how-

ever, not even a point for Dortmund will be enough. Marseille have been impressive, particularly in defence with goalkeeper Steven Mandanda standing out, and Olympiacos have their work cut out if they want to keep their European hopes alive.

In Group G, surprise package APOEL FC currently lead the way, remaining undefeated thus far in this seasons Champions League campaign. There is still enough time for the scenario to turn on its head and FC Porto will look to secure three points against strugglers Shakhtar Donetsk in the Ukraine as the top two teams, APOEL and FC Zenit St Petersburg play each other in Russia.

All has already been settled in Group H it would seem, with Barcelona having sealed qualification in the last round of Champions League fixtures, whilst AC Milan are through on all but mathematics. With two games remaining, they sit six points ahead of third placed FC BATE Borisov. Milan will welcome the champions of Europe to the San Siro and will hope to show once again that

UEFA Champions League - Match Day 5

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 B Münich	4	3	1	0	8	3	5	10	
2 Man City	4	2	1	1	6	4	2	7	
3 Napoli	4	1	2	1	6	5	1	5	
4 Villarreal	4	0	0	4	1	9	-8	0	

Group E	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 Chelsea	4	2	2	0	9	2	7	8	
2 Leverkus	4	2	0	2	5	6	-1	6	
3 Valencia	4	1	2	1	5	4	1	5	
4 Genk	4	0	2	2	1	8	-7	2	

Napoli v Man. City
Bayern Munich v Villarreal

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 Inter	4	3	0	1	6	4	2	9	
2 CSKA	4	1	2	1	7	5	2	5	
3 Trabzons	4	1	2	1	2	4	-2	5	
4 Lille	4	0	2	2	4	6	-2	2	

CSKA Moskva v Lille
Trabzonspor v Internazionale

Group C	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 Man Utd	4	2	2	0	8	4	4	8	
2 Benfica	4	2	2	0	5	2	3	8	
3 FC Basel	4	1	2	1	6	7	-1	5	
4 Galați	4	0	0	4	1	7	-6	0	

Otelul Galați v Basel
Man. United v Benfica

Group D	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 R Madrid	4	4	0	0	10	0	10	12	
2 Ajax	4	2	1	1	6	3	3	7	
3 Lyon	4	1	1	2	2	6	-4	4	
4 Zagreb	4	0	0	4	0	9	-9	0	

Real Madrid v Dinamo Zagreb
Lyon v Ajax

fixtures, whilst AC Milan are through on all but mathematics. With two games remaining, they sit six points ahead of third placed FC BATE Borisov. Milan will welcome the champions of Europe to the San Siro and will hope to show once again that

they are capable of taking points off Pep Guardiola's men, as they did at the Nou Camp on Matchday One. FC BATE will welcome FC Viktoria Plzen as the two teams fight it out for a spot in the latter stages of the Europa League.



Mixed results for Italy in friendlies



Luca Cetta

Serie A was on hiatus on the weekend as the national team took centre stage. Italy disposed of Euro 2012 co-host Poland on Friday, but lost 1-0 against Copa America Champion Uruguay on Tuesday. Elsewhere, a Serie B promotion hopeful sacked its coach following another poor result.

Italy went into the two friendly matches with a number of injuries, notably that of strikers Sebastian Giovinco, Giuseppe Rossi and Antonio Cassano. With the latter duo expected to be missing for up to six months, others have the chance to step up and impress Cesare Prandelli.

Mario Balotelli did just that, notching his first international goal with a curling effort in the first half in Poland. Giampaolo Pazzini poked in the second as Gianluigi Buffon saved a late penalty to ensure it ended 2-0.

Prandelli noted afterwards: "It is important to continue maintaining our balance. Poland are a strong team, and we could not initially find the breakthrough, but as the minutes passed we were able to find more opportunities, and we played well overall."

The tactician replaced Pazzini with Pablo Osvaldo versus the South Americans, as well as full-backs Christian Maggio and Federico Balzaretti for Ignazio Abate and Domenico Criscito respectively. Buffon's appearance was his 112th, equaling the legendary shot-



Sébastien Fernández of Uruguay celebrates with teammates after scoring the winner between Italy and Uruguay.

stopper Dino Zoff. The duo is third in the all-time Italian cap list, behind Fabio Cannavaro and Paolo Maldini.

The only goal arrived in just the third minute as diminutive striker Sébastien Fernández fired past Buffon. Italy, unlike in Poland, controlled proceedings throughout but were unable to land the killer blow. Osvaldo and Balotelli were guilty of missing chances, as was Balzaretti in the second half. The Azzurri found Uruguay custodian Fernando Muslera in irresistible form. The defeat was Italy's first in six matches and first at home since a friendly loss to Croatia in 2006.

Buffon stated the team can still be proud: "Unfortunately we didn't get the win, but everyone can be proud of the performance and effort we put in. Clearly one cannot be entirely positive after a defeat, but it's also true to say we held the initiative for 90 minutes and had many chances to draw level, so there was some good among the bad."

Serie B was in action last weekend, but it was a black day for Sampdoria.

Struggling for consistency this season, the promotion favourite sacked Gianluca Atzori after a 1-0 home defeat at the hands of Vicenza. The visitors came into the match in 21st position on the ladder but Samp was unable to break down a stubborn defence after falling behind. They have won just twice at home in eight matches and have confirmed Giuseppe Iachini as their new boss.

League leaders Torino were held to a 1-1 draw by Bari, but will have to go three matches without Captain Roldo Bianchi, sent-off for an errant elbow. High-flying Pescara and Padova also drew, while Verona and Reggina secured last-gasp victories.

Juventus outlined their compensation bid to the Regional Administrative Court in Lazio as it relates to calcio-poli damages. The club is seeking over €400 million "for minor revenue, brand depreciation, opportunity and chance losses, costs and expenses" from the Italian Football Federation (FIGC).

Staying in Turin, Alessandro Del Piero has declared his desire to continue

playing until he is 40. His contract with Juventus will not be renewed at the end of the current season, opening the door to an overseas adventure. Finally, there is good news for Gennaro Gattuso, who is making progress following his eye injury. The combative midfielder featured in a training match for Milan earlier in the week.

This weekend sees the resumption of Serie A and the pick of the round 12 action is in Florence, where Delio Rossi has a tough start on the bench at the Stadio Artemio Franchi. His Fiorentina will host in-form Milan, winner of their last five domestic encounters. Alexandre Pato, who has netted in this fixture for the past three seasons, is set to return from injury.

Those clubs affected by the postponed matches in round 11 all enjoy home advantage, with Napoli entertaining joint leaders Lazio. Despite upcoming European commitments, both will be at full strength for this crucial clash, which last season was the game of the year and ended 4-3 to Napoli.

Juventus is hoping Andrea Barzagli returns in time to take on former club Palermo, but they will be favourites against a Rosanero outfit which has not yet scored away from home. Davide Ballardini's reign at Cagliari starts against Inter in Milan. The struggling Nerazzurri will be desperate for the three points to finally get their season going, while Genoa hosts Novara, who have faded badly after a positive opening to the campaign. The visitors are finding the adjustment to Serie A difficult.

Elsewhere, Bologna will look to heap more misery on bottom side Cesena as Catania seeks a return to the winners list against Chievo. High-flying Udinese travels to Parma and Siena is aiming to consolidate their league position at home against Atalanta. Finally, Roma will be expecting back-to-back wins when they host Lecce.



Pepe Lopez

Spain's surprise underpar showing

An unusually poor showing by Spain over two International Friendly fixtures this past week has raised more questions for Spanish National Coach Vicente Del Bosque than answers.

Following up Spain's 1-0 loss to England at Wembley Stadium in London on Sunday, Spain were again on the road, half way across the world to Costa Rica at Ricardo Saprissa Stadium, and if it were not for a last minute goal by Spain's David Villa to steal a 2-2 draw, Spain would have lost their second consecutive match in 3 days.

Villa, who now has scored over 50 international goals, is being relied upon by Spain as the only consistent goal scoring option leading into Euro 2012, with Fernando Torres all but written off as first choice forward for the tournament with poor form for both club and country ever since his 50 Million Pound transfer from Liverpool FC to Chelsea FC in the English Premier League in January 2011.

Del Bosque's other goal scoring options lie in Barcelona's Pedro, who missed both games due to a recent ankle injury and Malaga's 20 Million Euro signing Santi Cazorla, who was limited to cameo appearances in the past two fixtures for Spain. However, between these two options, only a

combined total of 6 international goals have been scored. The answer may lie elsewhere. Valencia's Roberto Soldado scored 25 La Liga goals in the 2010-2011 season, and has already scored 8 goals in the 2011-2012 season. Soldado represented Spain at all youth levels, scoring a total of 26 goals at these youth levels. Surprisingly, Soldado has only made a couple of full senior appearances, back in 2007, his next international cap is long overdue.

Despite dominating possession against England, Spain were left to rue missed chances on goal, with Cesc Fabregas wasting a couple of late opportunities and David Villa hitting the post all in the final fifteen minutes. Spanish Coach Vicente Del Bosque had this to say about a defensive counter-attacking opponent; "I'm a bit disappointed and almost angry that we didn't win the game. But I can take lots of positives. We took the initiative, we held the initiative, we didn't let England get out of their half. We just missed that skillful defining moment. England carried out the manager's orders to the absolute letter. The tactical plan was carried out perfectly, but our style of football is totally different."

The mood of the Spanish National Coach however changed somewhat after the performance against Costa Rica, where sloppy defending by veterans Iker Casillas and Carles Puyol allowed Costa Rica to jump to first half 2-0 lead; "Costa Rica played better than us... They defended very well and were successful in their play. In today's game, you cannot undervalue any rivals. Costa Rica were an exemplary opponent and you must never think that you beat anyone easily." It may just be time for Spain to promote some new faces to their squad.

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Serbia

The national team played two friendly matches since they failed to qualify for the European Championships and did not take part in the Play-Offs a trip to Central America was on the cards for Caretaker Manager Radovan Cacic.

The expedition into the Americas failed as Serbia lost to Mexico 2-0 and to Honduras 2-0. What did they learn from the two friendlies? A certain amount of players should not wear the national jersey again!

There will be elections in the Serbian FA this month with the favourite being current President Tomislav Karadzic to retain his position. He said the federation should wait in naming a new Manager until the elections are over despite board members wanting to name a new manager as soon as possible.

The front runner for the vacant Serbian managerial position is former star Sinisa Mihajlovic who was recently sacked by Italian Serie A side Fiorentina, the main reason for his sacking was apparently

for a fresh approach and Sinisa had no wrong doing. Another man linked to the job is Milovan Rajevac who led Ghana to a Quarter Final at last year's World Cup. He was sacked by Qatar last month due to poor performances.

The Serbia U/21 side continued to perform well in Euro 2013 Qualifiers as they took all three points in a 2-0 away win against Northern Ireland. Goals to Sasa Markovic and Nemanja Gudelj in the last ten minutes gave Serbia a huge win which now puts them on top of Group 4 with three points more than Denmark.

The U21s are managed by former Bonnyrigg White Eagles player Aleksandar Jankovic who also had a spell in charge of Red Star Belgrade a couple of seasons ago. He is considered the most talented manager in Serbian football.

In Round 12 of the Serbian SuperLiga league leaders Partizan are at home to Borac Cacak with three new points for the Serbian Champions expected. Arch rivals and second placed Red Star is on the road to mid-table Jagodina. The two front-runners will meet in the 'Eternal Derby' in Round 13.

Croatia

The Croatian National team will be amongst the 16 best sides on the old continent as they qualified impressively following a 3-0 aggregate win over Turkey in the Euro 2012 Play-Offs.



Darijo Srna

Slaven Bilic's men showed real character in the first leg in Istanbul not allowing their opponents any real chances and punished the Turks with quick fire counter attacks. Ivica Olic and Mario Mandzukic opened the scoring for the Croats in the first half and Vedran Corluka added a third at the start of the second to all but confirm

2000 having gone into the qualifiers as the Third best side in the World.

Their best performance at a European Championships was reaching the Quarter Finals on two occasions, first in their debut at Euro 1996 in England where they lost out to eventual winners Germany 2-1 and in Switzerland and Australia three years ago when they were knocked out on penalties in an epic match against Turkey. The Play-Off win gave the side closure for their cruel exit at Euro 2008.

"We knew that Turkey had nothing to lose in Zagreb. We had our chances, we attacked more than the Turks and we fully deserved to be at next year's finals. We showed that this team has character and that we are at our best when we function as a family. We cannot wait for the finals and we expect to do one step further than last time." Croatia Captain Darijo Srna said.

Next year's finals will be the third former Melbourne Knights defender Joe Simunic will play at. The tall defender was euphoric after Qualifying for the tournament which will be held in Poland and Ukraine.

"Qualification for the finals would have been impossible of all 11 players didn't fight as one. Every single player did their job to the highest level and this is why we are going to the finals next year where we could do great things. Since we have qualified I expect the critics have a good look at themselves, they constantly

abused the team, the manager and the federation and now that we have qualified they expect it to be forgotten. We showed how to play in the national jersey and we did it as a collective, I would like to thank everyone who believed in us."

Joe Simunic said. Croatia will be seeded in pot three alongside Portugal, Sweden and former winners Greece.

Bosnia and Montenegro failed to qualify after aggregate losses. Bosnia came into the second leg with a neutral result after the first leg in Zenica ended 0:0. The Bosnians were upbeat going into the 2nd leg in Lisbon but were outclassed by a superior opponent. The Portuguese led by Ronaldo thrashed the Bosnians 6:2. It is the second time Portugal has got the better of Bosnia in a Play-Off for a major tournament; Ronaldo and co. overcame the Bosnians in a World Cup Play-off two years ago.

Montenegro were unlucky to lose 2:0 in Prague after creating many chances they came into the second leg needing to score twice and by doing so not allow the Czechs to find the net. However it proved too much for the Montenegrins who lost the second leg in Podgorica 1:0. It will be a very important learning curve for a side playing their first European Championships Qualifying campaign. With the major highlights being two draws with England who they will meet once again during 2014 World Cup Qualifiers.

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Euro Scoreboard



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ENGLAND EPL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
	Most recent first								Most recent first
1 Manchester City	11	10	1	0	39	10	+29	31	WWWWWW
2 Manchester United	11	8	2	1	28	12	+16	26	WWDLW
3 Newcastle United	11	7	4	0	17	8	+9	25	WWWDW
4 Chelsea	11	7	1	3	24	15	+9	22	WLWW
5 Tottenham Hotspur	10	7	1	2	21	15	+6	22	WWWDW
6 Liverpool	11	5	4	2	14	10	+4	19	DWDDW
7 Arsenal	11	6	1	4	23	21	+2	19	WWWWL
8 Aston Villa	11	3	6	2	16	15	+1	15	WDLW
9 Norwich City	11	3	4	4	16	18	-2	13	LDDWL
10 Swansea City	11	3	4	4	12	15	-3	13	DWDWL
11 Queens Park Ra...	11	3	3	5	10	20	-10	12	LLWDL
12 Stoke City	11	3	3	5	8	19	-11	12	LLWL
13 Wolverhampton ...	11	3	2	6	12	18	-6	11	WLDDL
14 West Bromwich ...	11	3	2	6	9	16	-7	11	LLWWD
15 Sunderland	11	2	4	5	14	13	+1	10	LDWL
16 Fulham	11	2	4	5	14	15	-1	10	LWLLW
17 Everton	10	3	1	6	11	15	-4	10	LWLL
18 Bolton Wanderers	11	3	0	8	18	27	-9	9	WLWL
19 Blackburn Rovers	11	1	3	7	13	24	-11	6	LDLDL
20 Wigan Athletic	11	1	2	8	7	20	-13	5	LLLLL

SPAIN La Liga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
	Most recent first								Most recent first
1 Real Madrid	11	9	1	1	39	7	+32	28	WWWWW
2 Barcelona	11	7	4	0	34	6	+28	25	DWWDW
3 Valencia	11	7	3	1	17	9	+8	24	WWWDW
4 Levante	11	7	2	2	17	9	+8	23	LLWWW
5 Sevilla	11	4	6	1	11	8	+3	18	DLDWD
6 Málaga	11	5	2	4	12	14	-2	17	DWL
7 Espanyol	11	5	1	5	9	13	-4	16	DLWWW
8 Rayo Vallecano	11	4	3	4	14	13	+1	15	WLWL
9 Athletic Club	11	3	5	3	17	14	+3	14	DWDW
10 Osasuna	11	3	5	3	14	24	-10	14	LWDWL
11 Atlético Madrid	11	3	4	4	14	14	+0	13	LWL
12 Real Betis	11	4	1	6	10	15	-5	13	DL
13 Villarreal	11	2	5	4	9	17	-8	11	DWL
14 Getafe	11	2	4	5	12	17	-5	10	WL
15 Mallorca	11	2	4	5	8	16	-8	10	DLL
16 Real Zaragoza	11	2	4	5	12	22	-10	10	DLL
17 Sporting Gijón	11	2	3	6	10	16	-6	9	DWWL
18 Racing Santander	11	1	6	4	7	15	-8	9	DWLL
19 Granada	11	2	3	6	4	12	-8	9	DWL
20 Real Sociedad	11	2	2	7	9	18	-9	8	LL

GERMANY Bundesliga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
	Most recent first								Most recent first
1 Bayern München	12	9	1	2	32	4	+28	28	WWWDW
2 Borussia Dortmund	12	7	2	3	26	9	+17	23	WWDWW
3 Werder Bremen	12	7	2	3	23	16	+7	23	WWDL
4 Borussia M'glad...	12	7	2	3	15	9	+6	23	WWLDL
5 Schalke 04	12	7	1	4	24	18	+6	22	DWWLW
6 Hannover 96	12	5	4	3	16	17	-1	19	DWLW
7 Stuttgart	12	5	3	4	18	12	+6	18	DDWW
8 Bayer Leverkusen	12	5	3	4	15	16	-1	18	DWLW
9 Hoffenheim	12	5	2	5	15	13	+2	17	DWLW
10 Hertha BSC	12	4	4	4	16	17	-1	16	LWDLW
11 Köln	12	5	1	6	20	26	-6	16	LWLW
12 Kaiserslautern	12	3	4	5	10	15	-5	13	DDWWL
13 Wolfsburg	12	4	1	7	15	25	-10	13	LLDWL
14 Mainz 05	12	3	3	6	16	23	-7	12	LLDLD
15 Nürnberg	12	3	3	6	13	20	-7	12	LLDLD
16 Hamburger SV	12	2	4	6	15	25	-10	10	DDDWL
17 Freiburg	12	3	1	8	16	27	-11	10	WLLLW
18 Augsburg	12	1	5	6	9	22	-13	8	DWLW

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
	Most recent first								Most recent first
1 Southampton	16	11	3	2	37	17	+20	36	WWWWWW
2 West Ham United	16	9	4	3	28	13	+15	31	WDW WL
3 Middlesbrough	16	8	6	2	20	12	+8	30	WWL WL
4 Cardiff City	16	7	6	3	29	20	+9	27	WW DWL
5 Blackpool	16	7	4	5	26	19	+7	25	WWL WW
6 Crystal Palace	16	7	4	5	18	14	+4	25	LD DWW
7 Leeds United	16	7	4	5	26	25	+1	25	WL DLW
8 Derby County	16	7	3	6	22	23	-1	24	LLW LD
9 Hull City	15	7	3	5	14	15	-1	24	LLW DW
10 Brighton & Hove...	16	6	5	5	19	17	+2	23	WL DLD
11 Peterborough U...	16	7	1	8	32	29	+3	22	WL LLL
12 Leicester City	16	6	4	6	20	19	+1	21	LLW LW
13 Birmingham City	16	3	6	4	18	14	+4	21	LD WWW
14 Reading	16	5	6	5	16	15	+1	21	WL DDD
15 Ipswich Town	15	6	2	7	21	27	-6	20	LLW DW
16 Portsmouth	16	5	4	7	19	18	+1	19	WL WLW
17 Millwall	16	4	6	6	19	18	+1	18	LWW WD
18 Burnley	15	5	3	7	20	23	-3	18	LLW WL
19 Barnsley	16	4	6	6	17	21	-4	18	WL WLW
20 Nottingham Forest	16	5	2	9	15	27	-12	17	WL WWD
21 Watford	16	4	4	8	15	26	-11	16	LW WL
22 Bristol City	16	3	4	9	14	27	-13	13	WL DLD
23 Coventry City	16	2	6	8	13	24	-11	12	LL DLD
24 Doncaster Rovers	16	3	3	10	28	-15	0	0	WL DLD

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